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WINDOWS

SC rules out blanket ban on firecrackers

Also not to allow fireworks throughout the day

NEW DELHI: Ahead of festival season, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said it will neither impose a complete ban on firecrackers nor allow their use round the clock, noting that a middle ground would require specifying the hours during which they can be used. A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale said a total ban would affect people's sentiments, while allowing fireworks throughout the day would have a "huge impact" on others, including the elderly, sick and children. "We need to find a solution by which we can give a specified time," the bench observed orally. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted a note stating that limited and conditional relaxation could be considered for specified "next-generation joined green crackers" recommended by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), subject to applicable noise, emission and safety requirements.

TG's Chikitha strikes double gold on debut in Asian Games

K Chandrashekar
Hyderabad

PEDDAPALLI PILLA'S BANAM FOR OLYMPICS

AN archer from the Peddapalli District in Telangana Taniparthi Chikitha has made the country proud by winning two gold medals in team events on her Asian Games debut.

The icing on the cake in India's golden hat-trick in compound archery was the mixed combination of Chikitha and Sahil Jadhav also securing an Olympic quota place for the country following their top finish. Chikitha is India's first-ever Women's U-21 Compound World Champion.

Chikitha won the two gold medals in the women's team and mixed team on Wednesday. In the Compound Archery (Women's Team) Chikitha Taniparthi, along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Prithika Pradeep, defeated China 238-234, equalling world record to grab the gold at the Asian Games. Repeating her marvellous performance on the same day in a different event of Compound Archery of mixed team, Chikitha, along with Sahil Jadhav, secured gold. Altogether the Archery team had a stellar gold rush on Wednesday by bagging three gold medals. Despite being on her debut tournament, Chikitha held her nerves to contribute in the team's rush for gold at the games.

Continued on Page 7

Murmu pats archers

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu extended her congratulations to Indian archers Chikitha Taniparthi, Sahil Rajesh Jadhav, Prithika Pradeep and Jyothi Surekha Vennam following their gold medal victories at the Asian Games 2026.

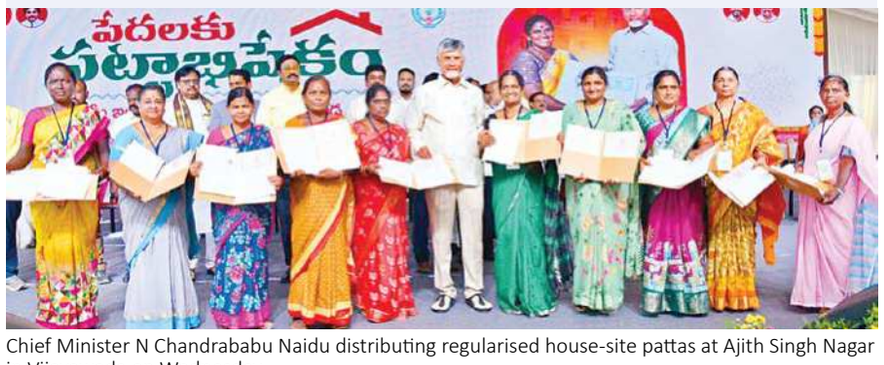
EC revises SIR schedule in AP

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday extended the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya, fixing October 16 and October 26, respectively, for the publication of the final voter lists. Earlier, the date for the publication of the final voter list was October 9 for Andhra Pradesh and October 21 for Meghalaya.

Will complete 36 irrigation projects in 3 years: Naidu

- 26,401 poor families get land ownership rights in Vijayawada
- Plots worth Rs 28,112 cr distributed under 'Pedalaku Pattabhishekam'
- AP government targets 11 lakh houses

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu distributing regularised house-site pattas at Ajith Singh Nagar in Vijayawada on Wednesday

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has declared that the state government proposes to complete 36 irrigation projects at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore over the next three years, with the objective of ensuring adequate drinking and irrigation water across the state. He also set the 2028 Krishna Pushkarams as the target for ensuring greater availability of Krishna and Godavari waters.

The Chief Minister on Wednesday addressed a gathering after distributing pattas conferring full ownership rights to 26,401 families under the 'Pedalaku Pattabhishekam' programme at Makineni Basava Punnaiah Stadium in Vijayawada.

Naidu said the implementation of the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project could help address water scarcity across southern India. Around 1,400 tmc of Godavari water had flowed into the sea this year, he pointed out, and argued that diverting even 100 tmc for productive purposes could transform the region.

Continued on Page 7

FILE PHOTO

Modi calls up Trump, discusses trade & energy

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that he had a "productive conversation" with US President Donald Trump and reviewed bilateral cooperation between New Delhi and Washington in various sectors.

In a social media post on X, Modi said: "Had a productive conversation with President Trump. We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas. We agreed to maintain close engagement to take our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward."

Continued on Page 7

INDIA bloc declares all-out war on SIR

- Announces protests on 'vote chori'
- To undertake march to EC on Oct 6
- Demands paper ballots in future polls

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addresses a press conference following the INDIA bloc meeting, alongside LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, J&K CM Omar Abdullah and CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday

Hans News Service
New Delhi

PUTTING up a united front on the 'vote chori' issue, the Opposition INDIA bloc on Wednesday announced joint 'save democracy' marches in all districts and five major rallies, demanded that future polls be held with ballot paper and appealed to the Supreme Court to expedite cases of SIR and electoral "malpractices".

Continued on Page 7

Zero vision, 100% frustration in Oppn, poohpoohs BJP P7

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Indian sailor among 5 killed by pirates on hijacked tanker

NEW DELHI: An Indian sailor was among five crew members killed during an anti-piracy operation on the hijacked fuel tanker MT Honour 25 in Somalia. Puntland Maritime Police Force successfully rescued MT Honour 25, apprehending 16 suspected pirates, and freed other vessels like MT Sibu 1 and MT Eureka. The High Commission of India in Kenya is providing assistance to the family of the deceased Indian national and ensuring the safety and repatriation of other Indian seafarers. The incident highlights a resurgence of Somali piracy, driven by regional conflicts and geopolitical instability in the Red Sea, impacting international shipping. Other hijacked vessels, including MT Eureka with Indian crew, were also released, though some were damaged and had cargo siphoned off.

Economy is doing great. You need not look for a job. Just drive e-rickshaw

CM Naidu calls for continuous skill training of govt staff

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a review meeting on skill development in Amaravati on Wednesday

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

- CM asks officials to tie up with IITs, IIMs for specialised training
- No complacency over drinking water supply despite recent rains
- Public participation sought in govt initiatives & welfare programmes

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called for continuous skill development of government employees, directing officials to expand training programmes in collaboration with premier institutions such as the IITs and IIMs.

Naidu made the direction during a review meeting with senior officials at his camp office on Wednesday on the services being delivered by various government departments. Skill development, Anna Canteens, drinking water supply in urban areas and amenities in welfare hostels were among the issues discussed. The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh was leading the southern states in capacity building and skill training for government employees. He said employees were being trained through various courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform to equip them to function effectively in real-time work environments.

Continued on Page 7

Cabinet hikes MSP for all rabi crops

Green Energy Corridor, Delhi traffic mgmt system get nod

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved three major measures spanning agriculture, power infrastructure and urban mobility, including higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season, a Rs 1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme and a Rs 1,789.52 crore technology-led traffic management system for Delhi. Continued on Page 7

Hero Indian captain prevents flydubai hijack

Makes emergency landing in Saudi Arabia; saves 180 passengers

New Delhi

IN a dramatic mid-air incident, an Indian Captain of flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv carrying 180 passengers thwarted a hijack attempt by his co-pilot, averting what Israeli media described as a potential "second 9/11."

The flight made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia after an alleged violent altercation between the two pilots inside the cockpit triggering a mid-air emergency, with videos purportedly capturing passengers screaming as the aircraft rapidly descended.

The flight was diverted to Tabuk airport after transmitting emergency signals that briefly raised fears of a hijacking. Israeli authorities scrambled fighter jets as they struggled to establish contact with the aircraft.

According to reports, the Omani co-pilot allegedly tried to seize control of the aircraft and stab Captain Smit Machchhar during the flight. Despite sustaining injuries, the Captain fought back and prevented the plane from crashing. His quick thinking and courage ensured the safety of more than 180 passengers, most of them Israeli nationals.

The situation escalated when the Captain, injured but determined, managed to restrain the attacker long enough for two off-duty pilots traveling as passengers to intervene. Continued on Page 7

SIR update: No more parent, grandparent details, says EC

Changes Form 6 rule for new voters in 20 states

New Delhi

NEW voters in 20 states, where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has been completed, will no longer have to provide details of their parents' presence on the electoral rolls. The Election Commission has amended Form 6 to allow applicants in these states to submit the form without the additional SIR-linked declaration seeking details of parents and grandparents. However, in states where SIR is still underway, new voters will continue to be required to submit the declaration. The move comes days after reports of internal objections within the three-member poll panel over changes made to Form 6. Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had reportedly raised objections to the addition of the declaration, with internal records cited by The Indian Express showing that they questioned its legality in the absence of an amendment to the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Continued on Page 7

76-yr-old gets 13-yr jail for 1988 bank robbery

Kalpetta

A 76-year-old man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined Rs 16,000 for his role in the 1988 robbery at the Nallurnad Service Cooperative Bank in Wayanad. The sentence was handed down by Additional District and Sessions Court Judge L Jayavanth.

The convict, Abdul Samad, a Kollam native, was arrested by police in October 2024 and faced trial while in judicial custody. The court said he will have to undergo another 10 months in prison if he fails to pay the fine.

According to police, the robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang arrived at the bank in a car, broke open the locks and entered the premises. The gang took away a safe, nearly one kilogram of gold ornaments and Rs 5,544 in cash.

The prosecution said two people who reached the bank after hearing the noise were attacked with a crowbar. In the case, four accused -- Subair, Suresh Babu, Alikkutty and Naseer -- were arrested and sentenced in 1993. Another accused, OK Babu, who had remained absconding, surrendered before the court in 2017 and was later sentenced.

During the trial, the court examined around 40 witnesses. The prosecution produced 166 documents as evidence and 21 material objects seized under the mahazar before the court.

The initial investigation was carried out by the then Mananthavady police and was later taken over by the District CBCID. Public Prosecutor E R Santhosh Kumar appeared for the prosecution.

Job creation coalition govt's only agenda: Lokesh

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

We're in a hurry as we have only five years. And Gen Z is also in a hurry," HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh underlining his government's focus on delivering speedy governance in five years. He outlined AP government's ambitious plans to attract investments and build new economic hubs

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh participating in the 'India Today Conclave South' in Kochi on Wednesday

CREATING employment opportunities for the youth is the sole agenda of the Andhra Pradesh government, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has said, underlining that the coalition government has set a target of creating 20 lakh jobs to fulfil the aspirations of young people.

Participating in the 'India Today Conclave South 2026' in Kochi, Lokesh said the youth were seeking "jobs, jobs and jobs" and that the Chief Minister, Ministers, and officials were working towards creating employment opportunities.

Responding to questions from senior journalist and 'India Today' Consulting Editor Rajdeep Sardesai, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh was attracting investments across sectors and developing specialised clusters and ecosystems. He said nearly 25 per cent of the investments that came to India during the past year were in Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh said the government was focusing on sectors ranging from energy and horticulture to quantum computing and was working with industries to equip youth with the skills required for emerging employment opportunities.

On allegations surrounding the recent DSC teacher recruitment examination, Lokesh said the examination was conducted transparently through a computer-based system and claimed that no allegation had been proved so far.

Continued on Page 7

Congress demands suspension of SIR

- CWC member Rudra Raju seeks resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner
- Stresses that Congress would continue its agitation until all irregularities in the electoral roll revision process are addressed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMALAPURAM

THE Congress has organised a large-scale dharna in Amalapuram, headquarters of Konaseema district, on Wednesday demanding immediate resignation and removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, suspension of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and restoration of voter names allegedly deleted from the rolls. Congress Working Committee member and former APCC president Gidugu Rudra Raju, who participated in the protest, alleged that the Election Commission had compromised the sanctity of the electoral process and demanded that the CEC face legal action if violations were established. The Congress has been intensifying its protests over the SIR and its functioning.

Rudra Raju said the party had three immediate demands: resignation of Gyanesh Kumar as CEC, suspension of the SIR process and restoration of the names of around 13 crore voters, whom the Congress alleges were illegally deleted from electoral rolls. He alleged that important decisions relating to electoral rolls were being taken arbitrarily and claimed that the CEC had acted without the approval of the other Election Commissioners on several occasions.

Referring to reports about objections raised by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, he alleged that their concerns related to voter inclusions and deletions, changes in statutory forms and other decisions concerning the electoral database. Reports have also emerged about differences within the Election Commission over aspects of the SIR process, while the Commission has maintained that its decisions were taken according to the applicable procedure.

Rudra Raju alleged that the changes made to Form 6, used for applications seeking inclusion of names in electoral rolls, required scrutiny and accountability. He said the Congress would continue its agitation until what it described as irregularities in the electoral roll revision process were addressed.

He also criticised the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, particularly the changes to the selection committee and the legal protection provided to Election Commission members for official acts. He alleged that these provisions had weakened institutional safeguards. The Congress has previously raised similar objections in its campaign against the CEC.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's earlier campaign on alleged irregularities in electoral rolls, Rudra Raju said the Congress had repeatedly raised concerns over voter deletions and additions and had sought greater transparency in the electoral database. He alleged that the party's concerns had gained importance following reports about objections raised by the two Election Commissioners.

Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district Congress president Kothuri Srinivas said the agitation was organised following the directions of the AICC and PCC. He said the Congress would continue to raise the issue of voter rights and electoral roll transparency.

Amalapuram town Congress president Vonteddu Bobby, AICC secretary Janga Gowtham, AICC member Yarlagadda Ravindra, senior leader Mushini Ramakrishna Rao and several other party leaders and workers participated in the dharna.

CWC member Gidugu Rudra Raju, Konaseema district Congress president Kothuri Srinivas and others participating in a dharna at Clock Tower Centre in Amalapuram on Wednesday

Aditya students organise 'Finova 2026'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

'FINOVA 2026', an event showcasing academic and practical skills of B Com and BFSI students, was organised at Aditya College of Commerce here on Wednesday.

Dr BP Narasareddy, Head of the Department of Commerce, Government Autonomous College, attended as the chief guest. He advised students to pursue their studies with determination and strive for excellence. He explained the significance of the 5 Ps and 5 Es and encouraged students to develop skills relevant to their future careers. As part of the event, students displayed projects and models covering stock market operations, management tree, zero waste, start-ups, food stalls, game stalls, human resources, insurance, Trade Sphere and AI in finance.

College Director SP Gangi Reddy, Aditya College Principal P Lakshmi Saroja and Aditya College of Commerce Principal KV Sriram appreciated the students for their participation and congratulated those who worked on the projects.

The organisers said Finova 2026 provided students an opportunity to gain practical exposure to commerce, banking, finance, management and emerging technologies.

The event also helped students present their ideas and understand the application of classroom learning to real-world situations.

Aditya College Director SP Gangi Reddy and others felicitating Dr BP Narasareddy, Head of Department of Commerce, Government Autonomous College, in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

KITS student selected as Quantum Elite

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VINJANAMPADU (GUNTUR DISTRICT)

GANTA Chaitra Deepika, third-year B Tech student of KKR and KSR Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS), Vinjanampadu, has been selected among the 10 Quantum Elite participants in WISER Global Summer Programme 2026.

The programme, organised under the initiative of the State government with the guidance of Quantum Foundation, received 64,436 registrations from 33 countries. Following a multi-stage selection process, 3,117 participants advanced to the next stage and 108 students were shortlisted, from whom 10 were finally selected as Quantum Elite.

The nine-month programme provided participants with exposure to quantum algorithms, practical learning, industry challenges and mentorship. As part of the programme,

Chaitra Deepika worked on a project titled 'Quantum Flow: Intelligent Order Optimisation', focusing on the use of quantum computing to address order optimisation challenges.

KITS Chairman Dr Koyi Subba Rao and Secretary Koyi Sekhar congratulated Chaitra Deepika on her achievement and said the recognition reflected the institution's focus on emerging technologies. They said KITS would continue to encourage students to pursue innovative projects and participate in national and international programmes.

Principal Dr P Babu, Academic Director Dr K Haribabu, CSE HoD Professor Ramesh, faculty members and students also congratulated her.

APVR-2026 AEE: Score lists and final answer key released

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh power utilities have released the score lists, revised response sheets and Final Answer Key for the APVR-2026 Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Computer-Based Test (CBT) held from August 23 to 27. The CBT was conducted from August 23 to 27 for 629 posts. The candidates' score lists, revised response sheets and the Final Answer Key have been made available on the official website on September 30.

Based on the candidates' scores, the authorities will prepare the final merit list in a 1:1 ratio against the notified vacancies, considering merit, Rule of Reservation and eligibility criteria. The final merit list is expected to be announced within two weeks, with the details of shortlisted candidates to be published on the official website.

PWBD candidates included in the merit list will have to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital. Details of the date and hospital will be communicated separately. Candidates shortlisted for certificate verification will also be informed about the date, time and venue. Failure to meet eligibility criteria, submission of false documents, failure to produce required certificates or absence from verification will result in cancellation of candidature.

AP POWER GENERATION CORPORATION Ltd., VS VIJAYAWADA-520004
(A Govt. of A.P Undertaking)

NIT No.E-34/2026-27 Tender ID.993827

Name of the work: "Dr.MVR.RTPP-I&C-Stage-1, R&M Procurement, Renovation and modification of Existing Keltron make 2x60 KVA UPS Systems in Unit-1&2" through e-procurement.
Schedule available Date & Time: **01.10.2026-10.30 AM onwards.**
Bid submission Closing Date & Time: **15.10.2026-12.30 PM**
For other details visit the website, viz: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Contact No: (08563-232112)/9493121769.

Sd/- P. Kiranmayi
Nodal Officer & APGENCO, Vidyut Soudha, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004.

DIPR R.O NO. 5467PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt. 30/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
"e" Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No.11/2026-2027; Dated: 19.09.2026

Online Tender is invited for the work "Water Resources Department HNSS Project-Phase-11 Modernization of **HNSS** Main Canal with CC Lining & Shortcreting Construction of Balance **CM & CD** works from **Km 400.500 to Km 458.975/463.000 including Tunnels (from Km 411.850 to Km 415.650 and Km 420.850 to Km 426.150) in Sri Sathya Sai District" for Amount Rs.487.489 Crores** in Kadiri Constituency Limits in Sathya Sai District on LS Contract System under HNSS Phase-II". Tender Schedules available from 29.09.2026 to 18.10.2026. for further details **please visit www.e procurement.gov.in.**

Superintending Engineer, HNSS Circle No.2, Ananthapurmau.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Administrative Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, (Bandra East), Mumbai 400 051; Tel: 022 4241 0400 , 022 4060 3100; Website: http://www.shriramfinance.in./auction
Regd Office: SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED,Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032.
Zonal Office Address: SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD, D.NO:- 29-37-141, II Floor,Near Ramamandiram, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002 at Vijayawada-IV.

E AUCTION SALE NOTICE IN RESPECT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BELONGS TO SONTI NARASIMHA RAO, VID DOC NO.1239/2019 OF S.R.O.NUNNA

E Auction Sale Notice for sale of the Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules under Rule 9 (1) issued we sent Intending sale Notice dated.**15.09.2026**. Since all of you have failed to exercise your right of redemption as contemplated under section 13 (8) of Act 54/2002 r/w Rule 8 (6) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002, this notice for e-auction sale is issued. This is to inform the borrowers / guarantors/ mortgagers / co-applicants / co-borrowers: Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor including Mortgagor that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, will be auctioned on. **26-10-2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M** through e-auction. in **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis. for recovery of dues of **Rs.63,13,680/- (Sixty three Lakhs Thirteen thousand Six hundred Eighty Rupees Only) in loan account no.VIJA4TF1902190001**, according to Demand Notice dated. **05.05.2022** with further interest, costs other charges and expenses due to the Shriram Finance Limited, Secured Creditor as per issued U/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, to the Borrower/Guarantor(s) mentioned below.

AGREEMENT NO: VIJA4TF1902190001.
Name and Address of the Borrower/Guarantor(s):
1. S.S.Naidu Poul Tries And Chicken, Represented By Its Proprietor of Sonti Narasimha Rao # 5-7/8-145, K L Rao Nagar, Syndicate Bank Colony, Ward-5, Vijayawada (Urban), Krishna Dist-520001.
2. Sonti Narasimha Rao, S/o.Sonti Mukteswara Rao, Aged about 62 Yrs, R/o. H.no. 5-6/4-17A, H.L Rao Nagar, Chitti nagar, Opp. Colora Hospital, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist-520001.
3. Sonti Guderamma, W/o.Sonti Mukteswara Rao, Aged about 62 Yrs, R/o. H.no. 5-6/4-17A, H.L Rao Nagar, Chitti nagar, Opp. Colora Hospital, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist-520001.
4. Sonti Lakshmi, W/o.S.Narasimha Rao, Aged about 32 Yrs, R/o H.no.5-6/4-17A, H.L Rao Nagar, Chitti nagar, Opp. Colora Hospital, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist-520001.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property Belongs to MR.SONTI.NARASIMHA RAO): An extent of 184 sq.yards or 153.84 sq.mtrs of house site and Shed therein, in R.S No.234/2C2, Plot No.2, Situate in Jakkampudi Village and gram Panchayat area, Vijayawada Rural Mandal Nunna sub Registry, Krishna Dist., bearing **bounded by: EAST:** Property of Gottumukkala Naga Raju-36 ft; **WEST:** 20 feet width Road-36 ft. **NORTH:** Plot no.3 of Santhi Narasimha rao-46 ft, **SOUTH:** Plot No.2 - 46 ft.

Known Encumbrances, if any: NIL

AGREEEMENT NO	RESERVE PRICE OF THE PROPERTY	EMD AMOUNT	BY WAY OF SUB EMD	BID INCREASE AMT	AUCTION DATE	EMD SUBMISSION DATE	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE
VIJA4TF1902190001	Rs.25,77,000/- (Twenty Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Rupees Only)	Rs.2,57,700/- (Two Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Rupees Only) (10% on Reserve Price)	DD in favour of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD	Rs.10,000/-	26-10-2026	24-10-2026	23-10-2026

The borrower/mortgagors/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction i.e. on or before commencement of E Auction proceedings dated.26.10.2026, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
The interested bidders required assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact **M/s. Shriram Automall India Limited contact person: Mr.Gaurav Namboodiri, Contact No. 9833922941, Email ID : gaurav.n@samil.in** and for any property related query may contact Shriram Finance Limited Authorized Officer, **Mr.Lakshmi Narayana Chirakala, Contact No.: 8367466865**, during office hours and working days.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids without furnishing any further reasons. The online auction will be conducted on website (https://eauctions.Samil.in/home) of our auction agency Shriram Auto Mall India Limited. and for the place of Tender Submission/ for obtaining the bid form / Tender open & Auction, please visit the **website https://eauctions.Samil.in/home** and for detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link **https://www.shriramfinance.in/auction** provided in the Shriram Finance Limited website.
Note: "It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022."
Place: Vijayawada, Date: 01-10-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Ltd.**

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Administrative Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, (Bandra East), Mumbai 400 051; Tel: 022 4241 0400 , 022 4060 3100; Website: http://www.shriramfinance.in./auction
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Zonal Office Address: SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD, D.NO:- 29-37-141, II Floor,Near Ramamandiram, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002 at Vijayawada-V.

E AUCTION SALE NOTICE IN RESPECT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BELONGS TO BOBBA RAJESH, VID DOC NO.1801/2019 OF S.R.O GUDIVADA

E Auction Sale Notice for sale of the Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules under Rule 9 (1) issued we sent Intending sale Notice dated.**15.09.2026**. Since all of you have failed to exercise your right of redemption as contemplated under section 13 (8) of Act 54/2002 r/w Rule 8 (6) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002, this notice for e-auction sale is issued. This is to inform the borrowers / guarantors/ mortgagers / co-applicants / co-borrowers: Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor including Mortgagor that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, will be auctioned on. **26-10-2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M** through e-auction. in **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis. for recovery of dues of **13489550/-(One Crore Thirty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Rupees Only) as on.27-01-2023** with further interest, costs other charges and expenses due to the Shriram Finance Limited, Secured Creditor as per issued U/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, to the Borrower/Guarantor(s) mentioned below.

AGREEMENT NO: VIJA8TF1903300004.
Name and Address of the Borrower/Guarantor(s):
1. Priyanka Lingam, W/o.B Rajesh, D.No: 36-14-1, Ground Floor, VV Prasad Complex, Mogalrajpuram, Vijayawada, NTR Dist -520010. **Also At:** Flat No. 501, Baba Gardens, LIC Colony Area, JP Nagar, Near Amma Kalyanamandapam, Vijayawda, NTR Dist -520010.
2. Bobba Rajesh, S/o.Kiran Kumar, Flat No.501, Baba Gardens, LIC Colony Area, JP Nagar, Near Amma Kalyanamandapam, Vijayawda, Krishna Dist-520010.
3. Nandamuri Sri Vinod, S/o.Sri Venkateswararao, D.No: 1-35, Nimmakuru, Pamarru, Krishna Dist -521158.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property Belongs to Bobba Rajesh): *ITEM NO.1:* An extent of 427.38 sq, yards or 357.33 sq. mtrs of vacant site bearing R.S.No.291, Assessment No.1038, Near door No.1/606 situate In Municipal Area, Gudivada, Gudivada Sub-Registry, Krishna District being **bounded by:- East:** Property of Chalasani Venkateswara Rao; 79.6 ft, **South:** Property of Kanikanti Venkata Ranga Rao; 40.6 ft; **West:** 30 feet width Bazaar; 77 ft, **North:** Property of Bobba Kishore Kumar; 57.6 ft,
Reserve Price of Rs.42,58,500/- (Forty Two Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Rupees Only)
EMD Amount : Rs.4,25,850/- (Four Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Rupees Only)
ITEM NO.2: An extent of 100 sq. yards or 83.61 sq. mtrs of vacant site bearing R.S.No.291, Assessment No.1038, Near door No.1/606 situate In Municipal Area, Gudivada, Gudivada Sub-Registry, Krishna District being **bounded by:- East:** Property of Bobba Kishore Kumar; 35.05 ft, **South:** Property of Bobba Balarama Krishna; 23.06 ft, **West:** 30 feet width Bazaar; 35.05 ft, **North:** 60 feet width Road; 23.06 ft.
Reserve Price of Rs.14,85,000/- (Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Rupees Only)
EMD amount : Rs.1,48,500/- (One Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Rupees Only)
Total Extent Of Above Two Items Is 527.38 Sq. Yards Or 440.94 Sq. Mtrs Of Vacant Residential Site.
Total Reserve Price (Item No-1 & 2) of Rs.57,43,500/-(Fifty Seven Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Rupees Only)
EMD amount: (10% on Reserve Price) : Rs.5,74,350/- (Five Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Rupees Only).

Known Encumbrances, if any: NIL

AGREEEMENT NO	TOTAL RESERVE PRICE OF THE PROPERTY (ITEM NO-1 & ITEM NO.2)	EMD AMOUNT	BY WAY OF SUB EMD	BID INCREASE AMT	AUCTION DATE	EMD SUBMISSION DATE	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE
VIJA8TF1903300004	Rs.57,43,500/- (Fifty Seven Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Rupees Only)	Rs.5,74,350/- (Five Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Rupees Only) (10% on Reserve Price)	DD in favour of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD	Rs.25,000/-	26-10-2026	24-10-2026	23-10-2026
					CONTACT PERSONS NAMES Authorized Officer, Ch.Lakshmi Narayana: Ph: 8367466865. K.Ch.Srinivasa Rao, Ph: 9989338862.		

The interested bidders required assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact **M/s. Shriram Automall India Limited contact person: Mr.Gaurav Namboodiri, Contact No. 9833922941, Email ID : gaurav.n@samil.in** and for any property related query may contact Shriram Finance Limited Authorized Officer, **Mr.Lakshmi Narayana Chirakala, Contact No.: 8367466865**, during office hours and working days.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids without furnishing any further reasons. The online auction will be conducted on website (https://eauctions.Samil.in/home) of our auction agency Shriram Auto Mall India Limited. and for the place of Tender Submission/ for obtaining the bid form / Tender open & Auction, please visit the **website https://eauctions.Samil.in/home** and for detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link **https://www.shriramfinance.in/auction** provided in the Shriram Finance Limited website.
Note: "It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022."
Place: Vijayawada, Date: 01-10-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Ltd.**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Roads & Buildings Department
e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice
NIT No.08/TO/2026-2027, Dt.28.09.2026
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 1 Road work in Kakinada District. Last date for receipt of tenders is 12.10.2026 upto 4PM. Approximate Value of works is **Rs.120.00 Lakhs.** Further details can be seen at e-market place i.e., www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Ph.0884-2366212.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Circle, Kakinada

DIPR R.O NO. 21621/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt. 30/09/2026

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
SPECIALIZED ARM BRANCH
KVC Arcade, 3rd Floor, 13-1 RC Road, Vani Nagar, Avilala, Tirupati, AP-517501.
Phone: 79016 26759, 99943 76626.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 9(1) and proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on **23.10.2026** for recovery of outstanding as mentioned here below is due to the **Canara Bank** from below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s).

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 23.10.2026 at 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)
EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet.com) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 22.10.2026 at 4.00 p.m

Borrower: Sri Imam Vali Shaik, S/o Khasim, D No.9-102, Cherukupalli Street, Darsi, Prakasam District. **Total Liabilities: Rs.53,23,048.50/- as on 30.09.2026 +** applicable interest and charges from **01.10.2026**

Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank: Prakshm District, Markapuram Revenue Division, Darsi Sub Division, Darsi mandal, Darsi Grama Panchyat, bearing Sy No 68/2 B, Merakapura, Ac 4.00 cents out of Ac 8.37 Cents, Door No 14-415, Near Vacant site of plot No 4 with an extant of 143.55 Sq yds. **Bounded by: East:** Road - Width of 15', **South:** Land of Shaik Ameen Basha (Millar Bujji), **West:** Land of Karumanchi Indira Gandhi, Plot No.8, **North:** Land of Pemma Subbarao. **Building measurement: North & South:** 49.5 * 50 ft, **East & West:** 26*26 ft.
As per prohibited property Report in APIGRS site the survey no 68/2 is showing under prohibition list vide notification no RC/ E5/490/2016 dated 11.07.2017 by District Collector, Praksam district.

RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 37,91,000/- EMD AMOUNT: Rs. 3,79,100/-

Note: Dues/Taxes, if any, known/not known to the Bank are to be borne by the auction purchaser and same is exclusive of the final bid amount.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website www.canarabank.com or may contact Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, Specialized ARM Branch, Tirupati, Ph. No.79016 26759, 99943 76626 during office hours on any working day.
*** Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs.50,000/-.**
For E-Auction Process, contact Service Provider: M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd (baanknet), web portal: "https://www.baanknet.com/", Contact No. 7046612345 / 6354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8160205051, E-mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com

Date: 30.09.2026, Place: Tirupati **Sd/- Authorised Officer, CANARA BANK**

MUSLIMS STAGE PROTEST OVER DARGAH ISSUE

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

Sufi Samaj State Convenor Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba addressing the media during a protest at ESR Gardens in Mangalagiri on Wednesday

MUSLIM community leaders, religious scholars and devotees staged a protest at Hazrat Syed Malik Hussain Baba Dargah at ESR Gardens in Mangalagiri on Wednesday, seeking protection of the shrine in view of the proposed Seed Access Road project.

The protest was led by Sufi Samaj State convener and Sufi spiritual leader Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba. The protesters expressed strong objections to the reported proposal to remove or affect the dargah for the construction of the road. They said the shrine had significant historical and spiritual importance and urged the authorities to ensure that it was protected.

The protesters demanded that the government reconsider the proposed road alignment and examine an alternative route that would avoid affecting the dargah. They also urged the authorities to preserve the shrine at its existing location and take necessary measures to prevent any damage to the premises. Among their key demands were reconsideration of any proposal to remove or relocate the dargah, protection of the shrine in its present form, and a review of the road alignment. They further called for consultations with dargah trustees, Muslim community representatives, religious leaders and devotees before taking any decision concerning the shrine.

The protesters also demanded that the government provide clarity on the proposed road project and the future of the dargah. They said that if their concerns were not addressed, they would announce their future course of action and continue their protest through peaceful and democratic means.

Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba appealed to the government to balance development works with the protection of places of worship. He urged the authorities to address the concerns of the community through dialogue and arrive at an acceptable solution. Sufi Saheb Jafar Hussaini, Sufi Mohammad Nazeeruddin Baba, dargah trustee Mohammed Usman and religious scholar Mohammed Zubair were among those, who participated in the protest.

'BJP has no role in SIR'

MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna says that genuine grievances could be raised before the competent authorities

Hans News Service
Rajamahendravaram

BJP SIR State convener and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy addressing the media at BJP office in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

BJP SIR State convener and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy on Wednesday criticised Opposition parties for making what he termed baseless allegations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and said the BJP had no role in the exercise.

Addressing a media conference in Rajamahendravaram, Nallamilli said some political parties with no electoral relevance were making unnecessary allegations against the SIR by relying on what he described as fabricated reports appearing in a section of the media. He also accused the Opposition of spreading misinformation over discussions among members of the Election Commission. He said SIR was a constitutionally mandated exercise and had nothing to do with the BJP.

According to him, the present exercise was the 14th Special Intensive Revision undertaken after Independence. The Supreme Court, in its May 2026 judgment on the Bihar SIR, upheld the Election Commission's authority to conduct the exercise under Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Nallamilli said every political party has agents at polling booths and questioned why there should be apprehension about the revision process when representatives of all parties were involved in the electoral process. He said political parties should raise specific objections through the prescribed mechanisms instead of casting aspersions on constitutional institutions.

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the MLA alleged that he was making politically motivated and inappropriate remarks as he was unable to accept his electoral setbacks.

He said people were observing such criticism and would respond appropriately.

He also alleged that the Congress was attempting to create doubts about constitutional institutions. Nallamilli further alleged that Sonia Gandhi had voted despite not being an Indian citizen at the relevant time and said the Congress had no moral standing to question the electoral process. He said allegations against the Election Commission should be backed by facts and evidence.

He questioned the contention that the SIR process was designed to favour the BJP, asking how Prashant Kishor could have won in Bihar if the exercise was advantageous to the BJP. He said the Bihar experience showed that the SIR process was not designed to benefit any particular political party.

The Supreme Court had upheld the validity of the Bihar SIR in May 2026, holding that the Election Commission had the authority to conduct the exercise and that the process was aimed at maintaining accurate and reliable electoral rolls.

MLA Nallamilli appealed to Opposition parties to respect constitutional institutions and allow the electoral revision process to proceed according to law. He said genuine grievances could be raised before the competent authorities and through the legal mechanisms available to voters and political parties.

Electoral roll revision reviewed in Rajanagaram

Hans News Service
Rajamahendravaram

District Electoral Roll Observer and AP Rythu Bazars CEO K Madhavi Latha inspecting the electoral roll revision process in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency on Wednesday

EAST Godavari District Electoral Roll Observer and AP Rythu Bazars CEO K Madhavi Latha inspected the electoral roll revision process in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency on Wednesday. She visited village secretariat at Diwancheruvu and reviewed the progress with election officials. She examined applications received for corrections and other changes in the electoral rolls and verified the related records.

Madhavi Latha enquired about the scrutiny of applications and the field-level verification being carried out by Booth Level Officers. She directed officials to conduct a thorough verification as per the prescribed rules and ensure that there were no errors in the electoral rolls. She instructed the officials to conduct the revision process in a transparent manner and ensure that eligible voters did not face any inconvenience.

Rajanagaram Assembly constituency Election Officer and Rajamahendravaram RDO R Sivaramudu, Collectorate in-charge AO Sunil Kumar, tahsildars, election officials, staff and BLOs participated.

Andhra Loyola's 'Sphoorti 2K26' from today

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

Andhra Loyola College Rector Fr G Rayyappa, Principal Fr Dr S Melchior and others addressing the media in Vijayawada

ANDHRA Loyola College is hosting 'Sphoorti 2K26', its Literary and Cultural Fest, under the theme 'Ignite – Unleash the Colours Within'. The fest provides students with a vibrant platform to showcase their literary, artistic and cultural talents through a wide range of competitions, including debate, elocution, essay writing, spot photography, face painting and classical dance.

As part of the celebrations, Sphoorti 2K26 banner was unveiled at the College Bridge in the presence of Fr G Rayyappa, Rector; Fr Dr S Melchior, Principal; Fr M Arul Jothi, Second Year UG Vice-Principal and Convener; Dr A Sree Lakshmi, Dean of Student Activities; Dr NA Francis Xavier, Dean of Commerce and Management; B Siva Kumari, First Year UG Vice-Principal; and association staff coordinators. The fest will be inaugurated on Thursday (October 1) with Ch Kutumba Rao, Vice-Chairman of Swarna Andhra P4 Foundation as the chief guest. The team of the film Anakapalli will also attend the event, including lead actor Lagadapati Vikram Sahidev, actress Sandhya Vasishta, and the film's director and producer, who is Vikram's father.

The remaining competitions include Western dance, group dance, folk dance, flower arrangement and the quiz finals. The three-day celebrations will conclude with the valedictory ceremony on October 3.

A global milestone: SRM-AP debuts in THE World University rankings

Hans News Service
Amaravati

"ENTERING the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings within a decade of its founding affirms that SRM University-AP is moving in the right direction," said Dr P Sathyanarayanan, Pro-Chancellor, SRM University-AP, following the university's debut in THE World University Rankings 2027.

SRM University-AP has secured a place in the 1,001–1,200 band in its first year of participation, emerging as the first university in Andhra Pradesh to achieve the distinction within such a short period of its establishment.

Dr Sathyanarayanan said the recognition reflected the quality, purpose and ambition of SRM University-AP. "With a focused roadmap for research and academic growth, we will build on this foundation by further strengthening academic quality, global engagement and meaningful impact," he said. The recognition also made SRM-AP, established less than a decade ago, the youngest private university in India to enter the rankings within 10 years of its inception.

The university recorded a strong performance in the International Outlook indicator, with a score of 58.5, placing it fifth in India on this parameter. Its Research Quality score of 55.4 reflected the reach and growing impact of its scholarly output in the global research community.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar said the ranking reflected the culture of inquiry nurtured at the university. He said the recognition strengthened the institution's resolve to pursue its vision and further strengthen academic, research and international engagement.

Dr Karthik Rajendran, Associate Dean, Quality Assurance and Rankings, said the ranking was particularly encouraging as it was the university's first submission to THE. He said the recognition validated its efforts to benchmark teaching, research and international engagement against global standards and provided an international baseline for measuring future progress.

Awareness created among students on recycling

Hans News Service
Rajamahendravaram

Students displaying a project on recycling at an exhibition at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kalakendram in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

MUNICIPAL Commissioner Rahul Meena said recycling plays a key role in protecting the environment and stressed the need to create awareness among students about environmental protection and waste management from an early age.

As part of Swachhata Hi Seva, science and art exhibitions were organised on Wednesday at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kalakendram to create awareness among students about waste management, reuse, recycling and reduction of waste. Students from around 50 government and private schools under the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation took part in the programme.

Students displayed science projects, models, drawings, posters, charts and creative works with solid waste management as the main theme. Projects included a vibration-based fencing system to prevent wild animals from entering railway tracks, a mobile-based system to send SMS alerts to sanitation staff when dustbins are full, methods of waste segregation and the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle concept.

The students also presented drawings and posters highlighting plastic waste prevention, cleanliness, recycling and reduction of waste. The exhibits reflected their understanding of environmental issues and creative thinking.

Rahul Meena said such exhibitions would help students understand the impact of plastic and other waste on the environment.

Woman missing after boarding auto

Hans News Service
Rajamahendravaram

A search operation being carried out in River Godavari

A 36-year-old woman, who went missing after leaving work, is feared to have been pushed into Godavari River by an auto-rickshaw driver after he allegedly snatched her gold ornaments. The incident came to light after police examined CCTV footage and traced the auto in which she had travelled.

According to police and local sources, the woman, Vinte Adilakshmi is a widow. She married Sattibabu of Bheemolu village in Gopalapuram mandal about 20 years ago. Her husband died of snakebite seven years ago and she had since been living with her parents at Kothapattiseema. Her daughter is employed in a private company in Hyderabad.

Adilakshmi had been working at a sweet shop in Tallapudi of East Godavari for the past one year. Some other residents of her village were also employed at the same shop and used buses and autos for their daily commute.

As usual, Adilakshmi went to the sweet shop on Monday. However, she did not return home even late in the evening. Her family members contacted her co-workers and made enquiries, but could not trace her. Her brother Satyanarayana Murthy approached Tallapudi police on Tuesday and lodged a complaint. Police registered a missing person case, SI Ramakrishna said. During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage from the areas surrounding the sweet shop under the supervision of Kovvur Rural CI Vijay Babu. The footage reportedly showed Adilakshmi boarding an auto alone on Monday night. Based on the CCTV footage, police took the auto driver into custody and began questioning him. During the investigation, it reportedly emerged that while taking Adilakshmi from Tallapudi towards Kothapattiseema, the driver allegedly snatched around 30 grams of gold ornaments from her neck and pushed her into the river.

Police have launched a search operation in the river to trace the woman.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMMAD IBRAHEEMBAIG** (Old Name), S/o Late MOHAMMAD MOOSABAIG, residing at D.No. 9-197, Town Police Station Opposite Street, Vuyyuru, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521165, I have changed my name as **MOHAMMED IBRAHIM BAIG** (New Name) S/o Late MOHAMMAD MOOSABAIG. Hereafter my name is known as **MOHAMMED IBRAHIM BAIG** (New Name), S/o Late MOHAMMED IBRAHIM BAIG.

RAJARAO-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUTYALAPATI SIVARAMA PRASAD** (Old Name) S/o MUTYALAPATI ADINARAYANA, resident of D.No. 12-82, Ravipadu Village, Cumbum Mandal, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh-523370. I have changed my name as **MUTYALAPATI SIVARAM PRASAD** (New Name) S/o Mutyalapati Adinarayana, Hereafter my name is known as **MUTYALAPATI SIVARAM PRASAD** (New Name) S/o Adinarayana.

RAJARAO-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BYSANI SATISH KUMAR (Old Name), S/o Bysani Venkateswarlu, residing at D. No. 70-7-1271/3, Sai Krishna Nagar, 7th IPD Colony, Guntur Bazar, Sangadigunta, Guntur, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India-522003. Hence I have changed my name to **BYSANI SATISH** (New Name). Hereafter my name is known as **BYSANI SATISH**, S/o Bysani venkateswarlu.

RAJARAO-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHITAKANA SUNITHA** W/o Ravi Babu, resident at D.No. 5-58, Abbai Cheruvu Gattu, Peda Amiram, Kalla Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh-534204. I have changed my name from CHITIKINA SUNITA (Old Name) to **CHITAKANA SUNITHA** (New Name). Hereafter all my documents and correspondence will be continue with my name **CHITAKANA SUNITHA**.

RAJARAO-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NADELLA MANVIKA RAO BRAHMAJI RAO (Old Name), D/o Nadella Brahmaji Rao Basavapurnaiah, Resident of D.No. 40-15/1-31A, Flat No- E-3, Ravi Kiran Towers, Anmolu Estate, Brundavan Colony, Vijayawada, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh-520010, after marriage I have changed my name known as **GOURNENI MANVIKA RAO** (New Name), W/o Gourneni Lakshmi Manohar.

RAJARAO-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **REJANTAL ANJALI** (New Name) W/o **SRINIVAS**. Previously Called **ANJU BAI** (Old Name), Resident of Door Number : 9-8-384, BVB College Road, Basavanagar Colony, Bidar, Karnataka State. PIN - 585403. Now Changed my Name from **ANJU BAI** (Old Name) to **REJANTAL ANJALI** (New Name). Hence forth I Will be Called As **REJANTAL ANJALI** (New Name) For all Purpose.

KRISHNA-KKD

CHANGE OF NAME

I **RAKAPU VIJAYA KUMARI** Mother of the Minor Daughter **RAKAPU RAMYA HASHINI**, D.No. 18-7-30/313, Wambay Apartments, Kotha Road, Lingampeta, Rajahmundry, E.G.Dt. A.P. I have changed my minor Daughter Name from **RAKAPU RAMYA HASINI** (Old Name) to **RAKAPU RAMYA HASHINI** (New Name). Hence forth she is called **RAKAPU RAMYA HASHINI** Mother of Rakapu Vijaya Kumari for all purposes.

KRISHNA-KKD

LOST PASSPORT NOTICE

I, **Bunga Adilakshmi**, residing at Door No. 4-97, Garuvupeta, Kunavaram Panchayat, Uppalaguptam Mandal, hereby inform the public that I have lost my original **Passport (Passport No: R7863061).**The incident took place on 28-09-2026 while I was traveling from Gollavilli to Uppalaguptam to get a Xerox copy of the document. The passport accidentally fell down somewhere along this route.If anyone finds the passport, please kindly return it to me or contact me at the following phone number:**Mobile Number: +91 9032548117**

KRISHNA-KKD

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GADDAM BINDU MADHAVI** D/o GADDAM MATAJI, Residing at H.No. 17-45, Road No. 4, Indraprastha Shanthigram, Vatlur, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India - 534007. I have changed my name from **BINDU MADHAVI RAJANALA** (Old Name) to **GADDAM BINDU MADHAVI** (New Name) for all purposes.

SIVAPRASAD-ELR

PROPERTY DOCUMENTS LOST

I, **BONDADA NAGAMAN, W/o Madhu Krishna,** D.No:7-89/2, Madhu Mani Nilayam, Kovvada Puntha, Beside Ramalayam Street, Bhimavaram-534202, W.G.Dt., Andhra Pradesh. I have recently lost my Original Property Document with bearing No.7173/2015 And Original Link Documents with bearing No.3654/1998, 3848/2011, 996/2013 on 10-01-2025 at 10:30 A.M, while I am going from Gunupudi Indiramma Colony to Bhimavaram Kotha Bus stand. So if anybody finds kindly inform to above address. **Contact: 9949708092.**

SIVAPRASAD-ELR

CHANGE OF NAME

I GODITHI VEERA VENKATA SESHAGIRI CHOWDARY S/o.Raju, D.No.7-138 Pasalavari veedhi , Rayavaram Mandal, Chelluru,Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaeema District A.P. Pin-533261 I have Changed my name from **GODITHI VEERA VENKATA SESHAGIRI RAO CHOWDARY** (Old Name) to **GODITHI VEERA VENKATA SESHAGIRI CHOWDARY** (New Name) Hence forth Iam being called **GODITHI VEERA VENKATA SESHAGIRI CHOWDARY** S/o. Raju for all Purpose.

KRISHNA-KKD

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **POTHUPALEPU SUDHA RANI** spouse of No: **14425895Y**, Rank:Ex - **HAV**, Name: **TALLAPALLI SITA RAMAIAH**, RO, ARTY Nashik, R/o. Door No: 3-92, Inturu Village, Amarthaluru Mandal, Guntur District - 522341, Andhra Pradesh, have changed my name from **POTHUPALEPU SUDHA RANI** to **TALLAPALLI SUDHARANI** vide affidavit dated 30-09-2026 before the Notary. Henceforth I will be called as **TALLAPALLI SUDHARANI** for all purposes.

VALI-GNT

CHANGE OF NAME

Undersigned **RAMA KRISHNA RAO DEVARAPALLI** (Old name), R/o : 70-14-10. G2, Saveraa apartment, Jayendranagar, KAKINADA, Andhra Pradesh 533003. Changing my name from **DEVARAPALLI RAMA KRISHNA RAO** (Old name) to **DEVARAPALLI VENKATA SAI RAMA KRISHNARAO** (New name) shall hence forth I am being called as **DEVARAPALLI VENKATA SAI RAMA KRISHNA RAO** (New name) for all purposes.

KRISHNA-KKD

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GUNDIMEDA PRASANTHI**, D/o. G. RAMA SHARMA,R/o. D.No. 24-21-18, Asramam Street, Durgapuram, Gandhinagaram, Vijayawada, NTR District, AP – 520003, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:That my original/maiden name is **"PRASANTHI GUNDIMEDA"**, After my marriage, my name was changed to**"NANDURI PRASANTHI"**That subsequently, my marriage was dissolved and divorced ,so I use my name as **GUNDIMEDA PRASANTHI** for all purpose

JSY

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK ASTHMA** W/O Shaik Karimula R/O 13-9-10/B, Islampet, Narasaraopeta, Narasaraopet, Dist. Palnadu, (Andhra Pradesh) - 522601 have changed the name of my minor daughter **SHAIK KULSUM** aged 9 years and shall hereafter be known as **SHAIK DUA.**

TM RAO

NOTICE: Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertise-ments in these columns. THE HANS INDIA (Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd) does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers. Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd. shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences in case such claims are found to be false.

Ongole Utsavam organised

- Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu asks people to keep water bodies and roads free of encroachment
- Odisha Governor K Haribabu praised the civic body for a waste segregation drive in about 80,000 houses on a single day

Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Odisha Governor K Haribabu, Collector P Raja Babu, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MLA D Janardhana Rao and others felicitating farmers' leader Ch Rangarao in Ongole on Wednesday

Hans News Service
Ongole

THE 150th anniversary of Ongole Municipality was celebrated with daylong programmes at Mini Stadium here on Wednesday. Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Odisha Governor Kambhampati Haribabu attended 'Ongole Utsavam' as chief guests. Students performed cultural programmes, and dignitaries felicitated several achievers. In the evening, about 150 Ongole Bulls were paraded through the main roads and centres of the town.

Ongole became a Municipality on September 30, 1876, and the town grew into a Municipal Corporation by January 25, 2012. Recalling his long bond with Ongole, Venkaiah Naidu said his political journey began here in 1977 when he contested from Ongole Parliament seat. He said people welcomed him warmly as a young man from a farming family, who had fought against the Emergency. He noted that voters walked with him and donated Rs 200 and Rs 300 during his jeep campaign.

Speaking about his time as Union Minister, Venkaiah Naidu said he pushed for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana so that every village gets a proper road. He urged people to choose leaders based on character, calibre, capacity and conduct, not money, caste or region. He advised youth to work hard with discipline and asked people to keep water bodies and roads free of encroachment and to love nature. He also called for protection of the famed Ongole bull breed and praised a book on Ongole history written by R Mallikarjuna Rao.

Odisha Governor K Haribabu said city growth means more than tall buildings and roads. He said people must get drinking water, sanitation, housing, health care and civic services. He said public participation is the real strength of city development, and both the government and every citizen share this duty. He praised the civic body for a waste segregation drive in about 80,000 houses on a single day, which was recorded as a world record. He called for special steps to develop water resources in Ongole. He also wanted Ongole to grow as Viksit Ongole, laying the foundation for Viksit Andhra Pradesh and Viksit Bharat.

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said Ongole has a proud history and many freedom fighters and poets. He added that Ongole once belonged to Nellore district and that old inscriptions from Addanki rulers mention the town. Social Welfare Minister Dr Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy congratulated Haribabu, who was born in Ongole. He praised MLA Damacharla Janardhan Rao for taking the name of Ongole to the world. He said 150 medical camps were held on a single day to mark the 150 years.

MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy thanked Venkaiah Naidu for sanctioning a large number of TIDCO houses and for AMRUT scheme. Rajya Sabha member Bashyam Ramakrishna praised Venkaiah Naidu as an ideal leader. MLA Janardhan Rao said 20 statues of famous personalities have been installed. He said 6,000 TIDCO houses will be opened soon.

Collector P Raja Babu said big industries like BPCL and Indosol will come to the district and create jobs. He said Kothapatnam harbour, a Reliance biogas plant and the Ramayapatnam port are also being set up. He hoped Ongole would grow into another metropolitan city.

Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, MLAs Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, BN Vijay Kumar and Inturi Nageswara Rao, 20 Point Programme Chairman Lanka Dinakar, OUDA Chairman Shaik Reyaz, AP Cultural Commission Chairperson Podapati Tejaswini, Minority Affairs adviser MA Sharif, and other public representatives also took part in the celebrations.

Onions to be sold at Rs 35 a kg all over state

- Civil supplies minster Manohar launches subsidised onion scheme in Vijayawada
- Each consumer can buy two kg by producing Aadhaar

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar launches sale of subsidised onions at Rythu Bazaar in Vijayawada on Wednesday

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

CIVIL Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Wednesday launched a subsidised onion sale programme at Rythu Bazaar here, under which onions will be sold at Rs 35 a kg with the support of the Centre and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF).

Speaking on the occasion, Manohar said rising prices in the open market were not confined to Andhra Pradesh, attributing the trend to global factors, including the impact of wars, the oil crisis and El Niño. He said the coalition government was closely monitoring market prices and taking measures to keep essential commodities affordable.

The Minister said the government had already started selling BPT super-fine rice at Rs 48 and Rs 52 a kg through 400 special counters after noticing an increase in rice prices. As onion prices crossed Rs 70 a kg in the open market, subsidised onions would be made available at all 115 Rythu Bazaars across the state. Each consumer would be entitled to two kg of onions on production of Aadhaar.

Manohar said efforts were also being made to supply red gram and palm oil at subsidised prices through ration shops. The Centre had agreed to supply 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of red gram to AP.

The Minister said there was no shortage of rice in the country and adequate stocks were available for the next three years. He appealed to people not to believe rumours circulating on social media about rice shortages.

He said the State had set a target of procuring 37 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the coming kharif season, with scope for revision depending on future conditions. Vigilance had also been intensified against attempts to divert foodgrains and essential commodities to the black market by citing El Niño.

Manohar said some quality issues were noticed in the first consignment of onions and the stock would be graded before sale. Measures would be taken to ensure better quality in subsequent consignments.

Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao and Civil Supplies Commissioner Kanna Babu were also present.

Quarter-final race takes shape at Sub-Junior Nationals

Hans New Service
Vijayawada

THE quarter-final picture at the 51st Sub-Junior National Basketball Championship, being conducted in Vijayawada, became clearer on Day 4, with several teams officially securing their places in the knockout stage after impressive performances in the league phase.

The tournament is being conducted at Maris Stella College, Chennupati Ramakotaiah Municipal Corporation Indoor Stadium, and KBC ZPH School at Patamata in Vijayawada. In the boys' section, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have secured their places in the quarter-finals. In the girls' section, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have confirmed their quarter-final berths.

In boys Group A, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan confirmed their quarter-final berths. Rajasthan produced one of the day's closest contests, edging past Uttar Pradesh 73–71 in a thrilling encounter. Harshwardhan Singh led Rajasthan with 21 points, while Robin Dhanka and Rajath Vyas contributed 19 and 18 points respectively. For Uttar Pradesh, Ayushman Kumar scored 14 points, while Vanish Tomar and Sahil Kumar added 12 each.

Action during the match between Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh boys at Maris Stella College in Vijayawada on Wednesday

In boys Group B, Karnataka, Delhi and Maharashtra booked their places in the knockout stage. Delhi registered a convincing 72–29 victory over Karnataka, with Vanish Dalal scoring 17 points and Karthik adding 16. Despite the defeat, Karnataka had already done enough in the league phase to secure its quarter-final spot.

In the girls' section, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu confirmed their quarter-final berths from Group A. Tamil Nadu strengthened its position with a dominant 62–17 victory over Telangana. V Anshika led the scoring with 13 points, followed by Dhanya M with 12 and Kavya IK with 10.

Maharashtra were among the standout performers of the day in Girls Group B, overpowering Kerala 103–45 to secure their place in the quarter-finals. Netra Damke was the star performer with a game-high 36 points, while Aarohi Kamble added 15 and Maitri Sha contributed 12.

Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have also confirmed their places in the Girls Group B quarter-final lineup. Kerala, despite its defeat to Maharashtra, had accumulated enough results during the league phase to progress to the knockout stage.

The Level 2 Boys competition also witnessed several high-scoring victories. Telangana defeated Goa 107–29, Chhattisgarh beat Tamil Nadu 82–19, West Bengal crossed the century mark with a 100–29 victory over Chandigarh, while Kerala defeated Puducherry 76–17.

With one day of league action remaining, the battle for the remaining quarter-final places and final group positions is set to reach a decisive stage. Teams will look to finish the league phase strongly and carry their momentum into the knockout rounds.

Samagra Shiksha SPD Srinivasa Rao honoured with 'Indian Humanitarian Award'

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

IN recognition of innovative initiatives undertaken by Samagra Shiksha for children with special needs in Andhra Pradesh, and its efforts to promote equal educational opportunities and empowerment, the Indian Book of Records has conferred 'Indian Humanitarian Award' on B Srinivasa Rao, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh. The award was presented by Indian Book of Records Adjudicator Tulasiram. Under the leadership of B Srinivasa Rao, Samagra Shiksha has undertaken several initiatives aimed at supporting children with special needs, including strengthening rehabilitation services, enhancing their participation in education, promoting the use of assistive technology and ensuring equitable educational opportunities.

The award particularly recognised 'Project Drushti', under which 21 students with special needs successfully reached the Mount Everest Base Camp. The initiative demonstrated that with appropriate encouragement, support and equal opportunities, children with special needs can pursue and achieve ambitious goals, including in parasports and inclusive sporting activities. The recognition is also seen as an acknowledgement of the continued efforts of Samagra Shiksha to strengthen an inclusive education system and ensure equal opportunities for every child with special needs. Speaking on the occasion, B Srinivasa Rao said the award was an honour for the dedicated team members of Samagra Shiksha working for the welfare and educational advancement of children with special needs, as well as for their parents.

He said Samagra Shiksha would continue its efforts to provide inclusive, equitable and quality educational opportunities to every student across the State.

Samagra Shiksha State Project Director B Srinivasa Rao being honoured with the 'Indian Humanitarian Award' by Indian Book of Records Adjudicator Tulasiram in Vijayawada

Vaad-Vivaad 2026 semi-finals held

Hans News Service
Nambur
(Guntur district)

THE semi-finals of Vaad-Vivaad 2026, a bilingual debate competition, were held at VVIT College here on Wednesday, with 60 shortlisted students competing on issues concerning India's role and identity in the emerging global order.

The competition is being organised by AE Foundation, Amaravati Chapter, in collaboration with Rotary Club Vijayawada Mid Town and MY Bharat, AP Ministry of Youth Affairs.

The organisers said Vaad-Vivaad seeks to encourage young people to move from 'social media to social thinking' by providing a platform to articulate their views on national issues, understand constitutional values and develop logical thinking, public speaking and leadership skills. The initiative is also aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Vaad-Vivaad was launched in Hyderabad in 2025 as the flagship initiative of the AE Foundation with the theme 'Youth Ki Soch, Rashtra Ka Nirman'.

Participants at the semi-finals of 'Vaad-Vivaad 2026' at VVIT College in Nambur on Wednesday

This year, the competition was expanded to Amaravati region.

Three preliminary rounds were conducted at Andhra Loyola College, KL University and KBN College, with students from more than 15 colleges in Vijayawada, Guntur and Amaravati participating. The organisers said more than 200 registrations were received, from which 60 best debaters were shortlisted for the semi-finals.

The semi-finals were conducted in two rounds under the theme 'India in the 21st Century: Redefining Our Nation's Identity in the Emerging World Order.' In the individual power round, participants were given one minute to prepare and one minute to present their views on a given topic. In the second round, participants were divided into teams of three to debate, counter opposing arguments and present a collective perspective. The competition was conducted in both Telugu and English. Commissioner of Youth Services S Bharani was the chief guest. The Vice-Chancellor of VVIT College was the guest of honour, while MY Bharat State Head Venkat Ujwal attended as an esteemed guest.

The jury included Suresh Kocchatil, Dilip Kilaru and other educationists, media personalities and social leaders. The organisers said 20 to 25 participants would be selected from the semi-finalists for the grand finale in Hyderabad, where the Amaravati finalists will compete with finalists from Hyderabad.

MP INSPECTS RLY WORKS

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar inspecting the progress of railway works at Eluru railway station on Wednesday

'Data interpretation key to informed decisions'

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

PROF Gadde Srinivasa Rao, Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Dodoma, Tanzania, said that proper interpretation of data was crucial for identifying patterns, recognising opportunities and making informed decisions in today's data-driven world. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of 'Sankhya 2026', the annual statistical festival organised by Department of Statistics, Andhra Loyola College (Autonomous) here on Wednesday.

Prof Srinivasa Rao stressed the growing importance of data, statistical analysis and interpretation across various fields. He encouraged students to move beyond theoretical learning and acquire practical skills in data analysis and statistical software, which are increasingly relevant in science, commerce, business, technology and other professional sectors.

Prof Gadde Srinivasa Rao being felicitated at Andhra Loyola College in Vijayawada on Wednesday

He urged students to make effective use of platforms such as Sankhya to develop analytical thinking, problem-solving skills and confidence.

Principal Fr Dr S Melchior, Dr KNVR Lakshmi, Head of Department of Statistics, Dr N Srinivasa Rao, faculty members and students participated in the inaugural programme. Dr N Srinivasa Rao recalled the origin and growth of Sankhya as a platform for students to explore Statistics beyond the classroom. The principal emphasised the relevance of statistical thinking across academic disciplines and professional fields.

The two-day festival has attracted a large number of registrations for various competitions, with students from several colleges participating in the event.

AP pitches opportunities for investment at Mumbai roadshow

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

- **Govt, CII showcase opportunities across 10 key sectors**
- **Minister Srinivas highlights land, ports and logistics infrastructure**
- **Roadshow aimed at drawing Maharashtra investors to Vizag CII conference**

Minister for MSMEs Kondapalli Srinivas with members of the business community at an investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday

THE state government, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organised a major investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday, showcasing investment opportunities in the State and seeking to forge new partnerships with domestic and international businesses.

Minister for micro, small and medium enterprises Kondapalli Srinivas was the chief guest at the roadshow, which was attended by representatives of prominent industrial associations, trade organisations, foreign trade bodies and business groups.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said Andhra Pradesh offered a combination of land availability, natural resources, infrastructure, ports and logistics connectivity that could support large-scale industrial investments.

He said the State government was committed to facilitating investments through entrepreneur-friendly policies and ensuring a favourable business environment. The roadshow focused on investment opportunities in BFSI and FinTech, textiles, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, chemicals and petrochemicals, ports and shipping logistics, food processing and FMCG, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres and renewable energy. The minister said the government was pursuing a 3S approach — speed of doing business, service and stability — to improve the investment climate and provide greater certainty to investors.

The Mumbai event was organised as part of the State government's broader investment mobilisation strategy and also served as the opening platform for the CII Partnership Conference, scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13.

Srinivas said the government expected the Mumbai roadshow to encourage leading companies and investors from Maharashtra to participate in the Visakhapatnam conference. The interaction with the business community in Mumbai, he said, would help broaden the scope for investments and partnerships in Andhra Pradesh.

The government is using a series of investor outreach programmes to present sector-specific opportunities and build interest ahead of the Visakhapatnam conference.

State brings healthcare to seniors' doorsteps

- **Health minister Satya Kumar says Andhra Pradesh conducted over 1.10 crore health check-ups for citizens aged above 60 during 2025-26, alongside more than 6 lakh physiotherapy services**
- **Special geriatric clinics are being held every Thursday at PHCs, with dedicated elderly wards in district hospitals and referral support for advanced treatment**

M V Syam Sundar
Amaravati

THE state government is taking special measures to make healthcare services more accessible to senior citizens, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said on Wednesday, stating that 1.10 crore health check-ups were conducted for people aged above 60 during 2025-26.

In a statement on the eve of International Day of Older Persons observed on October 1, Thursday, the minister said the government was taking healthcare services to elderly people instead of waiting for them to visit hospitals.

Besides medical check-ups, services such as physiotherapy and rehabilitation were being provided from the village level to district hospitals. He said special geriatric services were being conducted every Thursday at primary health centres for people aged above 60. Those requiring advanced treatment were being referred to higher-level hospitals. Special geriatric wards had been established at district hospitals, while area hospitals in places without district hospitals were also providing such services.

According to the government, 1,10,01,508 health check-ups were conducted among elderly people across the state during 2025-26, including 6,12,601 physiotherapy services. During 2026-27, 52,79,669 OP, IP, physiotherapy and other services have so far been provided to senior citizens.

As part of community-based healthcare, special medical teams visited 74 government-recognised old-age homes and conducted comprehensive health assessments.

The teams included specialists in general medicine, psychiatry, gynaecology and other areas.

The assessment identified depression-related problems in 18.8 per cent of the elderly, frequent falls in 9.8 per cent, and memory-related problems in 7.5 per cent.

About 2.1 per cent had both memory problems and depression, while 6.4 per cent had more than one age-related health problem. Others reported difficulties with activities such as cooking, shopping, travelling, going outside and performing routine tasks independently.

Those identified with health or psychosocial problems were provided counselling, treatment and other support services. Mental health professionals also participated in the visits.

The minister said rehabilitation workers were being encouraged to visit at least five elderly people living near community health centres every week to provide physiotherapy and other services.

He said October would be observed as a special month for elderly healthcare, with awareness programmes on healthy ageing, early disease detection, hypertension, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and geriatric care.

A comprehensive geriatric assessment tool-based questionnaire would also be used at district and area hospitals to collect health information from at least 1,000 elderly people and provide treatment based on their needs.

BJP to host Khadi Mela in Vijayawada on Gandhi Jayanti

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

- **Mela to be held at IV Palace under the theme 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion'**
- **Event will showcase varying handlooms and feature cultural programmes, with BJP urging families to support local weavers**
- **AP's handloom heritage, including Ponduru Khadi, Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri, will be highlighted as part of the 'Vocal for Local' push**

BJP state unit official spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday

TO mark Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the BJP will host a Khadi Mela at the IV Palace in Vijayawada. Organised under the banner 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion,' the event forms part of the party's Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, led by AP BJP state president P V N Madhav.

Announcing the event, state BJP spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka said that last year's exhibitions across Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Rajamahendravaram received overwhelming support, including a visit from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

This year's mela, located on the first floor of IV Palace, will feature handloom showcases along with morning and evening cultural programs. Renuka urged families to attend and support local weavers, emphasizing that Khadi is more than just a fabric—it is an enduring symbol of Swadeshi, self-reliance and national pride.

She pointed out that handloom and cottage industries remain India's largest source of employment after agriculture, providing vital dignity and income to rural households, particularly women. Thanks to expanded digital marketing, financial aid, and modern outreach, the sector's national turnover has surged from Rs 33,000 crore in 2013-14 to nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore today. Renuka also noted the Andhra Pradesh government's active support for weavers through initiatives like Nethanna Sevalo, power subsidies, pensions, and easy credit.

She also referred to the heritage of AP's textile tradition, pointing to Ponduru Khadi's prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, alongside key handloom hubs in Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri.

Jagan assures legal support to farmers over 'Lanka lands'

Hans News Service
Tadepalli

Lankapalli farmers meet YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking his support on the land dispute, at Tadepalli on Wednesday

FARMERS from Lankapalli village in Pamidimukkala mandal of Krishna district sought the support of YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy over a dispute involving nearly 600 acres of 'Lanka (island) lands' or river island lands. The farmers, who met him at party central office here on Wednesday, told Jagan that their families had been cultivating the lands since 1952, but their rights were being ignored. They said local TDP leaders and revenue officials had issued pattadar passbooks in the names of TDP leaders and their benamis, and claimed Pamidimukkala tahsildar K Naveen Kumar had overseen the process.

They urged YSRCP to press for a comprehensive inquiry and stand by them until justice was delivered. After hearing their grievances, Jagan assured them that the party would provide the necessary legal assistance and support efforts to protect their rights. Speaking to the media, former MLA and YSRCP leader Kaile Anil Kumar said TDP leaders in Pamarru are attempting to take over nearly 350 acres of SC Society Lanka lands through resurvey, forged documents and pattadar passbooks issued in names not found in original records.

After meeting Jagan Mohan Reddy with affected farmers, he demanded immediate government action. Anil said Pamarru has about 1,200 acres, with genuine farmers cultivating around 250 acres, while another 350 acres are being transferred to others under the supervision of local leader Ganta Suresh and with the backing of MLA Varla Kumar Raja. He said 600 acres of SC Society land are also being shown as government land, including about 100 acres proposed for sand excavation. He said nearly Rs 300 crore worth of public resources are being targeted through land, sand and soil dealings. He warned that YSRCP would approach the courts and seek cancellation of illegal passbooks and a judicial inquiry.

Atchanna hails Centre's rabi MSP hike for 2027-28

Hans News Service
Amaravati

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season, saying it would provide greater price security to farmers.

The decision was approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the minister, the Centre has fixed the MSP at Rs 2,610 per quintal for wheat, Rs 2,286 for barley, Rs 5,958 for gram, Rs 7,390 for lentil (masur), Rs 6,613 for rapeseed and mustard, and Rs 7,215 for safflower.

Compared with the previous season, the MSP for safflower has been increased by Rs 675 per quintal, rapeseed and mustard by Rs 413, lentil by Rs 390, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by Rs 25.

Atchannaidu said the higher MSPs for pulses and oilseeds would encourage farmers to diversify their crops and help strengthen returns from agriculture.

He said both the Centre and the state government were committed to ensuring that farmers received remunerative prices that covered their production costs and provided a reasonable return.

Increasing farmers' incomes, making agriculture more profitable and protecting farmers from market price fluctuations should remain key priorities, he said.

The minister said the state government was ensuring timely availability of seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. It was also prepared to intervene in markets whenever necessary to help farmers secure remunerative prices for their produce.

He said the state government was working in coordination with the Centre to promote farmers' welfare and the development of the agriculture sector.

The Centre and the state were moving forward together to provide greater financial security to farmers and make agriculture a more profitable livelihood, Atchannaidu said.

PAWS ON THE BEAT

State police induct 36 dual-skilled canines

Home minister V Anitha appreciates the skills of a police dog at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers at the ISW Canine Training Centre in Mangalagiri on Wednesday. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta is also seen.

Hans News Service
Amaravati

POLICE dogs play a crucial role in crime detection along with modern technology and forensic evidence, home minister Vangalapudi Anitha said on Wednesday.

She was speaking at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers held at the ISW Canine Training Centre of the 6th Battalion in Mangalagiri. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta attended the event as the guest of honour.

The home minister said 36 dogs had undergone specialised training for 10 months and were now ready for deployment. The state police currently had 218 trained dogs in service, while around 78 dogs had been trained during the past two years.

She said trained canines could detect narcotic substances through smell even when they were packed in multiple layers. Their role in detecting narcotics also helped protect youngsters from the harmful effects of drug abuse. Anitha said the government was focusing on both visible and invisible policing, technology, forensic services and the canine wing to strengthen crime prevention and investigation. The objective was to ensure that offenders did not escape and that investigations were supported by timely forensic and scientific evidence.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said canines had become highly reliable partners in policing. He said the 36 dogs inducted into the police force had been trained in dual skills to meet emerging crime and internal security requirements. Of the 23rd batch, 13 dogs were trained in explosive detection and tracking, while another 13 received dual training in narcotics detection and tracking. Seven dogs were trained in explosive detection, two in cadaver detection along with search and rescue (SAR), and one in assault and explosive detection.

For the first time, dogs trained in cadaver detection and search and rescue were being inducted into the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the DGP said. The training was conducted in coordination with the Taralu CRPF Dog Breeding and Training Centre in Bengaluru. Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd breeds were also being introduced for dual-purpose duties.

Gupta said dogs of the 22nd batch, deployed in 19 units around 10 months ago, had already contributed to results in 97 cases. Home minister Anitha presented prizes to dogs that excelled in various areas of training. Senior police officials, including CID chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, ACB chief Atul Singh, intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Ladha, additional DGP (law and order) N Madhusudana Reddy, IGPs B Rajakumari, Kanthirana Tata and K V Mohan Rao, SP K Arif Hafeez, senior police officers, ISW personnel and veterinary surgeon Dr Pratap Surapaneni attended the programme.

TER eyes integrated growth across key sectors

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Tirupati

- **Tirupati Economic Region CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena says the plan should address ground level needs and development gaps**
- **Space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services identified as key growth sectors**

TER CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena, planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar, Tirupati collector S Venkateswar and MLA Arani Srinivasulu at the stakeholder workshop in Tirupati on Wednesday

THE emerging space, defence, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors are set to play a key role in shaping the Tirupati Economic Region's (TER) development roadmap up to 2047.

The state government is preparing a comprehensive development plan for the region by incorporating inputs from elected representatives, industry, academia, officials and other stakeholders. TER CEO M Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the plan would focus on local requirements, development gaps and investment opportunities.

Addressing a stakeholder workshop at the Tirupati collectorate on Wednesday, Meena said the exercise should go beyond data collection and preparation of a report and result in an actionable plan reflecting ground-level needs. KPMG has been appointed as the strategic support agency for preparing the TER Development Plan 2047.

Representatives from Tirupati, Chittoor and Nellore districts, including collectors, MLAs, industrialists, academicians and experts, participated in the day-long consultation.

Meena highlighted the potential of the region in space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services. He proposed linking the emerging space and defence clusters in the Tirupati-Nellore belt with research, manufacturing, testing and launch facilities. With a space city coming up over nearly 2,500 acres, he suggested an R&D park involving IIT and IISER and called for policy support for land, buffer zones and infrastructure.

He also proposed examining a bonded corridor connecting ports, airports and industrial areas and integrating cargo, repacking and distribution facilities to improve logistics.

Planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar said an assessment of the economic conditions, growth potential and per capita income of the nine districts forming the TER had been carried out up to the mandal level. Though the region accounts for more than half of the State's geographical area, it contributes around one-third of its GSDP, he said.

Tirupati collector Dr S Venkateswar said the district's industrial ecosystem covered nearly 15,000 acres and stressed the need for better connectivity between industrial areas and major highways. Chittoor collector Sumit Kumar said 2,000 to 2,500 acres was available for industrial parks and called for advance planning of power, water and road infrastructure.

Nellore collector Himanshu Shukla sought industry-linked skill programmes in welding, solar ingot and wafer manufacturing, drone technology and gantry crane operations. He also stressed stronger power infrastructure for emerging sectors such as green hydrogen and data centres.

Tourism proposals included a circuit covering Tirumala, Srikalahasti, Kanipakam, Talakona and Horsley Hills, besides improved accommodation, transport and digital booking facilities. Sullurpeta MLA Nelavala Vijayasree sought a master plan for Pulicat and Sriharikota, while forest officials stressed compliance with sanctuary regulations and required clearances.

MLC Kancherla Srikanth sought stronger college-industry links through internships and skill programmes. Satyavedu MLA Adimulam sought better infrastructure in the industrial belt, including a bypass to Sri City.

Officials said the TER plan would cover industry, healthcare, education, infrastructure, logistics, skills and innovation, with around 50 to 60 key projects likely to be identified based on regional gaps and opportunities.

India cautions US against Pak's role in promoting terror

INDIA has rightly warned the United States against its growing bonhomie with Pakistan. Speaking at the Asia Society Policy Institute, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "There are very few countries which have been subjected to the kind of terrorism that we have from a neighbour as part of a deliberate, conscious policy over many, many decades." Though he didn't name Pakistan, as such, the reference was obvious, especially because the US itself has suffered because of Pakistan's dalliance with jihadist terror. It is a well-known fact that Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the political and military capitals of Pakistan, have played both sides of terror; they aided, armed, and abetted jihadists on both its eastern and western fronts, while feigning to help the American efforts to fight Islamists like Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. "Now, if something which matters so deeply to us, there isn't enough understanding or appreciation or empathy of that, I think that creates a problem too. That you know if... one of my primary concerns is not fully appreciated by my partner, then clearly there is an impact of that on the relationship," Jaishankar said, alluding to India-US ties.

He has a point. Washington has been claiming, and rightly so, that Tehran has been promoting jihad in the region; in fact, this is one of the factors resulting in the US-Israel alliance's attack on Iran. At the same time, President Donald Trump was cosying up with Pakistan, especially its Field Marshal Asim Munir, who is the jihadist-in-chief of the notorious 'terroristan'. Unfortunately, Pakistani leaders' flattery and shenanigans fooled the world's most powerful man. The dealings between Trump's family members and the Pakistani establishment also reportedly cast their shadow on the US-Pakistan ties. While we have unambiguously conveyed our displeasure over the improving US-Pakistan relations, we must not go overboard, which we sometimes do—the recently concluded BRICS Summit in New Delhi being a case in point. Diplomacy is an exercise in balancing interests, not in expressing emotions. The US will pursue its own strategic, economic, and geopolitical interests, just as India must pursue its own. Washington's engagement with Islamabad may be uncomfortable for New Delhi, but it does not automatically follow that New Delhi should allow this discomfort to define the entire India-US relationship.

The two countries have substantial convergences in the Indo-Pacific, defence, technology, trade, energy security, and counterterrorism. These interests cannot be wished away because of fluctuations in America's Pakistan policy. New Delhi should continue to remind Washington of Pakistan's record of supporting and sheltering terrorist organisations, while avoiding the temptation to view every American-Pakistan interaction as a diplomatic setback for India. At any rate, Americans are not so ignorant as to be unaware of Pakistan's duplicity. India should also resist the urge to turn every multilateral forum into an arena for settling bilateral scores.

The BRICS Summit demonstrated the pitfalls of allowing geopolitical disagreements to overshadow larger economic and developmental objectives. India's growing global stature demands strategic composure. One need to react to every move by another power; it must assess that move dispassionately, protect its core interests, and keep its diplomatic options open. That is the approach New Delhi should adopt towards the renewed US-Pakistan bonhomie.

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home

TALKING OF MANY THINGS

DR MOHAN KANDA

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary care givers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations.

WHILE many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu, which says that to have a home of one's own and to perform a marriage in the family are the most important challenges in an individual's life. In what follows, an attempt has been made to understand the role played by a shelter.

A shelter protects living beings from rain, strong winds, extreme climatic conditions, predators, and environmental dangers.

A home, on the other hand, is much more than a mere shelter, It is vital because it provides physical safety, emotional comfort, and a stable foundation for personal and family life. It is also a place of love, acceptance, and deep emotional support and offers a secure environment for all living beings. A home also serves as a central gathering place that binds family members together.

Organisations like Habitat for Humanity work globally to help families secure all lasting benefits in one's house.

Primitive shelters have evolved into modern homes through major shifts in materials, permanence, and technology driven by human civilization. Prehistoric humans used natural geological formations, while nomadic groups built lightweight temporary huts using wood branches, animal hides, bones, and grass that were easy to assemble and dismantle. Once humans mastered the art of creating fire, some 400,000 years ago internal hearths transformed shelters into social hubs for cooking, warmth, and art.

After farming led to permanent settlements around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, communities began to use sunbaked mud bricks, clay, and stone to build stronger walls, multi-room layouts, and courtyards for privacy.

In the medieval ages, engineering led to innovations and complex multi-storied concrete structures came up with piped water, and civic planning. Housing later diversified into peasant cottages, urban timber-framed townhouses, and fortified stone castles.

The advent of the industrial and modern eras, marked by industrial mass production, steel, iron, mass-produced brick, and glass was marked by high-density urban housing and skyscrapers.

Functional planning led to the contemporary smart and sustainable homes.

Modern residences use smart technology and green architecture, informed by climate automation, energy management, and high-speed connectivity, with eco-friendly designs using solar power, sustainable composite materials, and green roofs to fight climate change.

Providing concessional housing loans from banking and financial institutions besides providing subsidised homes for the poor are now important socio-economic priorities for the central and state governments.

The word 'home', by itself, or in conjunction with other words, is also used to stand for several other things in different contexts and situations. For example, the stadium where a local, or 'home', team plays its matches is known as the 'home-ground'. Also, idiomatically, an area, environment, or topic that people know very well is called the 'home' ground, as they feel secure and in control because they understand the surroundings or the topic. A 'home run' in softball is another similar term.

An 'At Home' invitation stands for a highly traditional, formal style of invitation used to indicate that the host is holding a social gathering. Historically popular in 19th and 20th century high society, the format has evolved over time. The President of India and the Governors of States traditionally host an At Home, every year on Republic Day.

That expression, incidentally, triggers a somewhat unhappy though amusing memory. It was the 1976 Republic Day, and I was the Secretary to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sharda Mukherjee. She was very protocol conscious and fastidious about things needing to look absolutely spic and span on such occasions. Elaborate arrangements were in place for the garden party.

It was time for the Chief Minister to arrive and be received by the Governor, a sudden downpour happened, bringing with it absolute disaster. All the invitees had to rush into Raj Bhavan's Durbar Hall. Alternative arrangements were made hastily, which, by no means, were up to the standards the Governor had expected. And, the Chief Minister, a person given to wry satire and known never to lose an opportunity to have a dig at others, sarcastically complimented me for lacking the quality of anticipation!

In a similar manner, to be 'homely' means to look plain or unattractive in the United States, although it refers to being cozy, comfortable, and unpretentious in the UK. The expression 'homing instinct' stands for an animal's natural, built-in ability to find its way back to its home, nest, or breeding ground after traveling a long distance away.

Animals do not need a map or prior training, as they possess the innate ability to know how to return to their homes, using natural tools such as the sun, stars, the Earth's magnetic field, smells, and visual memory, to navigate. Pigeons, for instance, are famous for flying hundreds of miles back to their exact loft, as are salmon fish, which swim across vast oceans and find the exact freshwater stream where they were born. Domesticated cats and dogs are also known to travel considerable distances across unfamiliar places to return to their owners. Yet another example is that of migratory birds, such as swallows and geese, which return to the same nests year after year.

An example of the word 'home' being used in conjunction with other words is 'homework', which is a set of academic tasks assigned to students by their teachers to be completed outside of regular class hours. And 'homemade' refers to anything made at home, on the premises, or through your own personal efforts rather than being mass-produced in a factory or bought from a store.

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary caregivers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations. In addition, they attend to housekeeping chores, such as shopping for household needs, budgeting, and maintaining the home environment.

In India, the Union 'Home' Ministry is a government department responsible for a country's internal security, domestic law and order, and public safety.

The virtues of a home have often been a favourite subject matter for authors and composers. 'Home Sweet Home', for example, is an expression used when someone returns home after being away to show that they are happy to be back. The expression "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home", is another example, which originates from the song "Home, Sweet Home!", written for an opera.

The reference I made earlier in this article to the homing instinct, makes me recall an incident which caused me acute embarrassment when I was on a visit to the wonderful city of Kiel in Germany years ago, in connection with a lecture to be delivered in the University there. I have been blessed with the great virtue of being able to lose my way home, even within the colony where we reside in Hyderabad. And the city of Kiel afforded me a great opportunity to test the power of that trait of mine. In the four days that I spent there, not even on one occasion, out of a hundred or so, did I fail to break out into a nervous sweat, out of fear that I would never find my way back to the hotel where I was staying.

Each time, invariably, I just managed to return to it, having desperately sought directions from at least a dozen passersby!

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

The architecture of inclusion: How Sukumar Sen built a republic of voters

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

"Democracy begins not with the politician. It begins with the voter."

In 1950, a newly sovereign nation embarked on the most ambitious democratic experiment in human history. India was a vast, deeply diverse landscape recovering from the trauma of Partition, where nearly 85 per cent of the population was illiterate and infrastructure was virtually non-existent. There were no digital databases, no standardised identification cards, no automated networks, and no modern technology.

Into this monumental void stepped Sukumar Sen, an ICS officer appointed as India's first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Tasked with executing the inaugural general election, Sen did not merely manage a bureaucratic process; he helped build the foundational instinct of Indian democracy. His mission was as radical in its simplicity as it was staggering in its scope: find every citizen, register them, and give them a voice. Today, as contemporary political discourse grows increasingly obsessed with lists, exclusions, and deletions, returning to Sen's original vision offers a vital reminder of what it truly takes to sustain a government of the people.

The enrolment epic

The logistics facing Sen and his team were unprecedented. India's electorate in 1950 spanned over 17 crore voters—a demographic larger than the combined populations of the United States and western Europe at the time. To enroll them, thousands of election workers traveled on foot, by bullock cart, on horseback, and aboard boats. They trekked across the snow-bound valleys of Himachal Pradesh, crossed the arid expanses of Rajasthan, and navigated the dense forests of the North-east.

They went door to door and village to village to compile the electoral rolls from scratch. When social stigmas prevented many women in northern states from giving their individual names to male officials—offering only their relations as "mother of X" or "wife of Y"—Sen refused to accept the compromise. He insisted that every citizen must be recognized in their own right, and delayed registration drive timelines until millions of women were properly named and cataloged on the rolls.

Technology is a powerful amplifier, but it must serve the original ethos established in 1950. A database should be a bridge to participation, never a barrier. When administrative systems prioritise procedural rigidity over universal access, they risk eroding the trust that Sen worked so tirelessly to forge.

To overcome widespread illiteracy, Sen's team devised an intuitive visual language. They introduced distinct symbols for political parties—a pair of bullocks, a tree, an elephant—and color-coded ballot boxes so that every individual, regardless of formal education, could cast a secret ballot with dignity and confidence.

Sukumar Sen

Building vs. maintaining- The founding instinct:

Sukumar Sen and the architects of early India did not inherit a functional democracy; they had to construct one out of hope, determination, and civic faith. Because they built it from the ground up, they understood a fundamental truth that often gets lost in modern administration: the strength of a republic is measured by its capacity to include, not its efficiency at weeding out.

The state seeks out the voter

In recent decades, administrative focus has subtly shifted. Where the founding impulse was driven by a relentless urge to expand the circle of participation, modern election machinery is frequently pre-occupied with verification algorithms, identity cross-checks, and purging records. While accurate rolls are essential for integrity, an over-emphasis on deletion risks transforming a welcoming public apparatus into a defensive gatekeeper.

Reclaiming the citizen-centric republic:

When Gyanesh Kumar assumed office as Chief Election Commissioner in 2024, he inherited a sophisticated electoral machinery powered by instant digital verification, advanced satellite communications, and millions of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Yet, despite these vast technological leaps, the central challenge of democracy remains unchanged: ensuring that no legitimate voice is silenced or left behind.

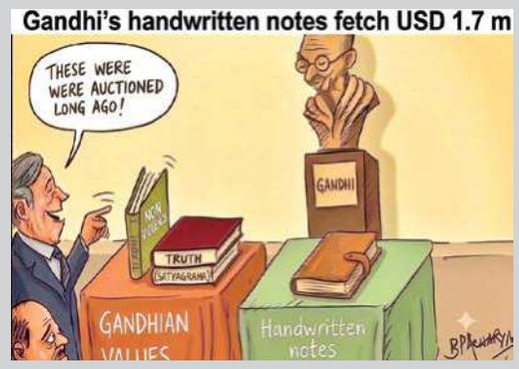
Technology is a powerful amplifier, but it must serve the original ethos established in 1950. A database should be a bridge to participation, never a barrier. When administrative systems prioritise procedural rigidity over universal access, they risk eroding the trust that Sen worked so tirelessly to forge.

The founders of India understood that politicians do not create democracy; citizens do. The act of placing a mark on a ballot is the primary assertion of human equality in a complex society. As Indian democracy continues to evolve in a digital age, honoring Sukumar Sen's legacy requires a deliberate return to that original instinct—a commitment to an inclusive republic where the fundamental duty of the state is to seek out every voter and ensure their place in the nation's story.

"The vote is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society." — John Lewis

(The writer is a former OSD to the Union Civil Aviation Minister)

MEDLEY



LETTERS

Mining policy should think of affected communities

With reference to "Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states" (THI, Sept 30). Mining can generate investment, employment and revenue, but the benefits should not come at the cost of communities living around mineral deposits. States hosting these resources face displacement, environmental degradation and pressure on local infrastructure. Any new mining framework should therefore include stronger safeguards for the affected communities. A defined share of mining-related revenue could be directed towards local health, education, roads and rehabilitation. Environmental clearances must remain rigorous and should not become a mere formality in the interest of faster extraction. The Centre and states should jointly monitor compliance and publish regular reports. A development model that combines mineral extraction with environmental responsibility and local welfare would make mining more sustainable and socially acceptable.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore–641402

Govt must spell out future mining arrangements

THIS refers to "Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states" (THI, Sept 30). The disagreement over the proposed mining law also highlights the importance of policy certainty. Investors need clear rules, and governments must ensure that states are not suddenly deprived of legitimate revenue or decision-making space. Frequent changes in taxation, royalties or regulatory arrangements can create uncertainty for both industry and governments. The Centre should publish a clear framework explaining how existing and future mining arrangements will be treated. A formal consultation mechanism with mineral-producing states could prevent disputes before they reach the courts. Any retrospective financial implications should be handled carefully and transparently. Predictability, fair revenue-sharing and institutional dialogue can provide industry with confidence while respecting the constitutional position of states.

Swathi Senthilkumar, Coimbatore

Protect economic interests first

Regarding "Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states" (THI, Sept 30), the proposed changes deserve examination from the standpoint of cooperative federalism. Natural resources may have national economic significance, but the states where minerals are extracted deal directly with the consequences of mining. Their participation in policy formulation is therefore essential. The Centre should convene a structured dialogue with mineral-rich states, industry representatives, local bodies and affected communities before implementing major changes. Differences over the law should be resolved through negotiation rather than prolonged political confrontation or litigation. At the same time, states should provide predictable approvals and ensure that regulatory processes remain efficient. A mutually agreed framework can protect national economic interests while giving states adequate fiscal space and communities a fair share of the benefits generated from their natural resources.

B A Neboba, Perundurai-638 052

Tech firms must adopt energy-efficient systems

THIS is further to the column "Creativity is destroying the environment" (THI Sept 30). Artificial intelligence is celebrated for the convenience it provides, but its environmental cost remains largely unexamined. Training GPT-3 alone is estimated to have evaporated about seven lakh litres of fresh water, and by 2027 global AI demand could equal the annual water use of 30 to 47 million people. In a country where nearly 60 crore people face severe water shortage, this cannot be ignored. Policymakers and technology companies must adopt energy-efficient systems, responsible water use and transparent disclosure.

Divyanshu Dhakad, Dhenkanal

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Congress launches Bharat Jodo 2.0 padyatra from Shikaripura

SHIVAMOGGA: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Wednesday launched its 'Bharat Jodo 2.0' padyatra from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, targeting 84 Assembly constituencies where the Congress was defeated in the 2023 Karnataka elections. The padyatra is being led by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad and is planned as an 84-day programme covering 29 districts. Congress leaders said the initiative is aimed at strengthening the party organisation and increasing direct interaction with people in constituencies where the party lost in the previous Assembly election. The programme was launched from Kittadahalli in Shikaripura taluk. The march proceeded through Mattikote, Hosanagar Cross and Nelavagilu before heading towards Shikaripura town. According to Minister Madhu Bangarappa, around 10 km will be covered during the first day's padyatra.

Read more at https://epaper.thehansindia.com

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AI drive takes Centre stage at iGOT workshop

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

- **AP showcases its use of AI in public administration, including analysis of nearly 5,000 commercial tax assessment cases involving transactions worth about Rs 1,600 cr**
- **Officials from six southern states discuss capacity building, digital learning, modern skills and best practices to improve govt services**

Finance special chief secretary Peeyush Kumar speaking at the iGOT–Mission Karmayogi for the southern states in Vijayawada on Wednesday

THE first regional workshop of iGOT–Mission Karmayogi for the southern states concluded in Vijayawada on Wednesday after two days of discussions on strengthening the capabilities and skills of government employees and improving the quality of public services.

The workshop, organised by the Capacity Building Commission at Dr B R Ambedkar Kala Vedika, focused on capacity building, modern skills, digital learning, technology adoption and sharing of best practices among the participating States.

On the second day, Andhra Pradesh made a presentation on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in public administration and citizen services.

Finance special chief secretary Peeyush Kumar explained to representatives of various states the measures taken by the state to use AI for delivering faster and more transparent services. Peeyush Kumar said that while the use of AI was increasing in governance, human judgement would remain crucial in decision-making. He called upon government officials to move beyond merely implementing rules and focus on finding solutions to public problems.

He said an experiment involving a multi-agent AI network in the commercial taxes department had proved successful. Nearly 5,000 assessment cases involving transactions valued at around Rs.1,600 crore were analysed using AI, he said.

The finance special chief secretary stressed the need to prepare government employees as well as the younger generation for emerging technological challenges. He said officials needed to continuously upgrade their skills in line with changing requirements.

Representatives from six southern states discussed best practices in training and capacity building and exchanged experiences on strengthening training institutions and improving learning systems for government employees.

The two-day workshop also deliberated on measures to improve the quality of citizen services, enhance employee skills and competencies, expand digital learning and promote the use of modern technologies in government departments.

The regional workshop also prepared a draft incorporating key areas for strengthening employee capabilities. Discussions covered an integrated approach to capacity building, from training and skill development to improvement in service delivery. The iGOT–Mission Karmayogi platform is being used to promote continuous learning and professional development among government employees.

Andhra Pradesh has completed more than two crore iGOT online courses, placing the State among the leading States in employee capacity building, according to officials.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has appreciated the state's progress in employee skill development and particularly commended the AP HRD department, planning department and AP State Development Planning Society.

The workshop also focused on strengthening coordination between training institutions and government departments and expanding digital learning to enhance employee capabilities.

The participating States agreed on the importance of continued exchange of experiences and best practices for building a more capable and responsive public administration.

Hero Indian captain prevents flydubai hijack

Continued from page 1

Together, they regained control of the cockpit and diverted the aircraft to Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely.

Israeli outlets YNet News and Channel 12 confirmed the Captain's nationality as Indian, hailing him as a hero whose actions prevented a mass tragedy. Preliminary reports in Israeli media suggested that the Omani pilot allegedly attempted to crash the aircraft by forcing it into a steep descent from around 30,000 feet. The Indian pilot reportedly intervened, leading to a physical struggle inside the cockpit. The aircraft reportedly lost more than 17,000 feet in under 30 seconds during the incident.

Fluctuating between about -30,000 and +10,000 feet per minute. The aircraft briefly climbed to around 21,650 feet before descending below 14,000 feet and later stabilising at around 15,000 feet for an extended period.

Videos shared on social media purportedly show passengers screaming as the aircraft undergoes a sudden descent. In another clip, passengers appear to cheer after the situation aboard the aircraft seemingly comes under control. The footage has emerged amid reports of a violent confrontation between the pilots. However, the precise sequence of events captured in the videos could not be independently established.

Cabinet hikes MSP for all rabi crops

Continued from page 1

The rabi MSP increases range from Rs 25 per quintal for wheat to Rs 675 for safflower, while the Green Energy Corridor-III scheme will strengthen intra-state transmission networks and add 50 GWh of battery storage capacity. The new Intelligent Traffic Management System in Delhi will cover 42 traffic corridors and use adaptive signals, automated enforcement and real-time traffic data.

Safflower has received the highest absolute increase of Rs 675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs 413 per quintal. The MSP for lentil (masur) has been increased by Rs 390 per quintal, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by Rs 25 per quintal. The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs 2,610 per quintal for the 2027-28 marketing season, compared with Rs 2,585 per quintal in 2026-27.

The Green Energy Corridor scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 1,86,405 crore, will strengthen intra-state transmission systems and facilitate the evacuation of up to 135 GW of renewable energy across states and Union territories. The scheme, targeted for completion by FY2032-33, includes Rs 1,36,378 crore for intra-state transmission systems and Rs 50,000 crore for deploying 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

CM Naidu calls for continuous skill training of govt staff

Continued from page 1

He asked employees to make use of virtual courses to continuously upgrade their skills. Skill development should not be viewed as a one-time exercise, he said, pointing out that IAS officers regularly undergo orientation and training to update their knowledge and capabilities.

Naidu directed officials to develop similar opportunities for other government employees and explore partnerships with IITs and IIMs for specialised training programmes.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the drinking water situation in urban areas and directed officials to ensure that shortages did not occur in either urban or rural areas.

Officials informed him that the drinking water situation in towns and cities had improved considerably following the recent rains. However, minor shortages were still being reported in two municipalities in the Rayalaseema region, where remedial measures were under way. The officials also reported that groundwater levels in Visakhapatnam city had improved following recharge and that the drinking water situation was being addressed.

Modi calls up Trump, discusses trade & energy

Continued from page 1

"We also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including ongoing efforts to advance global peace and security," he added. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch as both sides continue to deepen the strategic partnership.

This comes days after Trump signed into law a sweeping sanctions package targeting Russia and Iran and giving his administration expanded powers to penalise countries that continue buying Russian oil and gas, including India.

Zero vision, 100% frustration in Oppn, poohpoohs BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP said the outcomes of the INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday were "zero vision, 100 per cent frustration, and an advance excuse for poll defeats", with the leaders of the Opposition grouping rejecting Rahul Gandhi's leadership.

"The INDI Alliance fell apart even before the meeting took place. The DMK did not attend the meeting. Akhilesh was busy elsewhere. The AAP had already declined," Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters. The senior BJP leader further pointed out that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said he will join the meeting virtually. "Why is this happening? It is because the INDI Alliance is simply not willing to accept Rahul Gandhi as its leader. His leadership is not being accepted; that is why they are not even showing up," Chouhan said.

India bloc declares all-out war on SIR

Continued from page 1

At a meeting attended by leaders of as many as 19 political parties that lasted over three-and-a-half hours, it was decided that all Opposition MPs will march to the Election Commission on October 6 and the leaders would meet the President to highlight the issues related to alleged irregularities in voter list revision.

The Opposition grouping discussed the demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and said they will not relent till he is ousted.

The meeting held at the Constitution Club here was attended by top party leaders - Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, besides TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, besides left leaders.

Some Opposition leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM chief Hemant Soren, participated in the meeting online, as they could not be physically present.

"With unanimity, everyone vowed to fight together," Kharge said while addressing a joint briefing by the bloc leaders after their meeting, The Congress chief said they have decided on the joint action plan, whereby "save democracy" marches will be taken out in all districts from October 2-8 and demonstrations will be held before the district magistrate's office, where the youth and NGOs would also be invited.

"We will hold five big rallies during October/November and date and place would be decided soon. We will tell people how the government is snatching the rights of the people to elect their government for running the country," he said. Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders are the "collective defenders" of the Indian Constitution and asserted that it is their "personal commitment" to ensure that those who have "destroyed" Indian democracy are punished.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee asserted that the INDIA bloc is "very much united" and demanded immediate removal of CEC Kumar, alleging serious electoral wrongdoing and manipulation of the electoral process. "But now it has been exposed that Gyanesh Kumar is a 'daaku'. He stole people's votes... therefore, Gyanesh Kumar must resign immediately," she said. "If Gyanesh Kumar does not resign, we people will launch a massive movement from 'mitti to aasmaan' (from the ground to the sky). We will fight, we will win... we will protect democracy and the Constitution," she said.

Kharge said that on November 1 a mega rally would be organised in the national capital to highlight the issue of 'vote chori'. "Now everyone is realising that what Rahul ji was saying is correct and it is attracting attention. First Prime Minister Narendra Modi did 'notebandi' and is now doing 'votebandi', taking away the people's rights," he said.

Asked about reverting to ballots instead of EVMs, Kharge said everyone 100 per cent agreed that all elections henceforth should be held on ballot paper and that the laws framed by this "vote chori government" should be annulled.

According to sources, the rallies will be held in Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and one more city.

The Congress chief said Modi-Shah are making the Election Commission work like a "puppet", alleging that "These people are only winning elections by stealing votes.

TG's Chikitha strikes double gold on debut in Asian Games

Continued from page 1

The 21-year-old Chikitha hails from Telangana's Sultanpur village in Peddapalli district. She was initially interested in karate but was persuaded by her father Srinivasa Rao to become an archer. Her first love with archery was when she was a child and a bow presented by her uncle on the occasion of Dasara, which made her aspire for a career in archery. She fondly recollects, "It was a Dasara holiday. My uncle who lives in Hyderabad, bought a recurve Decathlon bow. I tried it just for fun. We used to shoot just for fun at that time," she recalled.

Chikitha said that her father was the driving force behind her archery career, making significant financial sacrifices, including taking loans and selling a rice harvester, to fund her training. She said she was inspired by Saina Nehwal's Olympic success stating, "After Saina Nehwal won an Olympic medal, he decided that I should play another sport (archery, instead of karate)."

Legendary Archer Abhishek Verma trained Chikitha at the SAI Centre in Sonepat, shooting 300 arrows daily. Chikitha said: "I didn't get into archery on my own. It was my father's choice. He wanted me to play sports because he couldn't play any sport. When I was small, he used to take us to playgrounds. Every day we used to play some games," she recalled, after what can be described as a smashing debut. In school, from 6th grade till 8th grade, I was doing karate. I got my first black belt also," said Chikitha.

Once he realised that Chikitha has potential, her father Srinvasa Rao took a loan to buy her upgraded equipment that could shape her better. She started pursuing archery more seriously in 2018 and was picked in the junior camp in 2021. Rao eventually also sold the family's rice harvester to fund her archery training. He took her to a nearby town to train with a local archer and built makeshift targets at home.

After losing Rs 1.5 lakh in a fraud while trying to buy her first compound bow, he took another Rs 3.5 lakh loan for new equipment. Her performances later earned her a government-funded bow from the district Collector.

On the question of handling pressure, Chikitha said, the golds this morning had also eased the pressure that she had built on herself in the past few months.

"Personally, I have been struggling this past year, facing some difficulties. After becoming World champion last year, it became very difficult for me to perform at the same level. I was struggling with my shooting aim. I worked really hard and I got back to the first team," she said.

Will complete 36 irrigation projects in 3 years: Naidu

Continued from page 1

He said the government planned to complete the Polavaram project by next year and make water available through gravity flow. Water conserved in the Krishna Delta would subsequently be diverted towards Rayalaseema, he said.

Naidu said the previous government had obstructed the Pattiseema project, while his government had completed it and so far transported 490 tmc of water through the project. He said inadequate inflows into the Krishna, Srisailam reservoir, and Prakasam Barrage, which he attributed to the impact of El Nino, had made the project particularly important this year. He said water brought through Pattiseema was supplied to the delta region, helping prevent a drinking water shortage in Vijayawada.

Naidu said the NDA coalition government had already conferred land rights on 28,000 families in Visakhapatnam and 5,800 families in Mangalagiri. He said the decision to grant ownership rights was taken after considering the difficulties faced by poor families who had been living on the lands for decades. He congratulated public representatives and officials involved in the distribution of pattas to beneficiaries in NTR and Krishna districts.

The land covered by the pattas in Vijayawada alone extends over 707 acres and is valued at Rs 28,112 crore, with the value of individual plots ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2 crore, according to the government.

The government had completed 5.5 lakh houses and was preparing to provide another 5.5 lakh houses during the coming year, he said.

Naidu criticised the previous government over its land policies between 2019 and 2024, alleging that they resulted in property disputes within families. He objected to the printing of political leaders' images on pattadar passbooks and alleged that the Land Titling Act had created difficulties for landowners.

The Chief Minister said about Rs 800 crore was spent on printing images even on survey stones and argued that the money could instead have been used for welfare programmes.

The coalition government's priorities, he said, were welfare, development, and wealth creation, Naidu said, and claimed that Rs 1.50 lakh crore had already been spent on developmental works.

Naidu also criticised the previous government over its opposition to the Amaravati capital project, alleging that letters had been written to the World Bank to prevent funding for the project and that various protests had been organised against Amaravati.

He said the previous administration had advocated a three-capital model and described Amaravati in negative terms. He said Amaravati would nevertheless be developed as a major capital city, with 50 per cent green cover, green energy meeting its electricity requirements, and a net-zero city objective.

Job creation coalition govt's only agenda: Lokesh

Continued from page 1

He said the sports certificates being questioned were issued during the previous YSRCP government and added that the government was prepared to abide by any court directions on the issue.

On educational reforms, Lokesh said the system needed to be redesigned for the requirements of the future, rather than those of the past. He said 16,000 teachers had been recruited and trained and that student-level data was being used to prevent dropouts.

Referring to emerging technologies, Lokesh said quantum computing was not a hypothetical concept but a next-generation technology.

Andhra Pradesh, he said, was planning to establish a 156-qubit quantum computer in Amaravati and build an ecosystem around research, material science, and cryogenic technology.

On attracting investments, Lokesh outlined the government's "3S" approach — speed, service and stability. He said the government was seeking faster project clearances, keeping investors informed about project progress, and providing a stable policy framework.

Lokesh also said Gen Z was demanding systemic changes irrespective of caste, religion, or region. He said governments needed to listen to young people and work with them to find solutions.

During his Kerala visit, Lokesh also met Kitex Garments chairman and managing director Sabu M. Jacob in Kochi and discussed opportunities in textiles, apparel manufacturing, and industrial development. At Jacob's invitation, he visited the Kitex factory and reviewed its integrated manufacturing operations.

SIR update: No more parent, grandparent details, says EC

Continued from page 1

The EC, however, has maintained that its decisions on SIR and Form 6 were unanimously approved by all three commissioners. In a clarification issued on September 26, the poll panel said the SIR declaration attached to Form 6 had been upheld by the Supreme Court and that the forms prescribed under the 1960 Rules would be used during periods when SIR is not underway. Earlier, a new voter applying for inclusion in the electoral roll was not required to provide details of their parents or grandparents from previous SIR rolls. That additional requirement was introduced for Form 6 applications during the SIR exercise. Applicants were required to provide information to establish their linkage with earlier electoral rolls, including details concerning their parents or grandparents. With SIR completed in a state, the additional declaration will no longer be required for new voter applications there.

The EC has said SIR has already been completed in 20 states and Union Territories, including Bihar and West Bengal. Young and first-time voters, as well as people whose names were left out during SIR or subsequently, can apply for inclusion through continuous updation. The requirement will continue in states and Union Territories where the SIR exercise is still underway. New voters applying for enrolment in these areas will have to submit Form 6 along with the SIR-related declaration, including the details required to establish their linkage with the previous electoral roll.

This creates a distinction between voter enrolment during an ongoing SIR exercise and enrolment during the period of continuous updation after SIR has been completed.

Womenia

'REBEL RANIS'

Brings four powerful women to life through dance

Keelaka Dance Company's 'Rebel Ranis' brings together the stories of Kaikeyi, Sita, Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Draupadi in a vibrant blend of dance, theatre and music. With powerful performances and striking visuals, the production looks beyond familiar legends to explore four women who challenged the boundaries of their time

ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

Rangbhoomi Auditorium recently witnessed a dance theatre production, 'Rebel Ranis', by Keelaka Dance Company. The production was the result of a collaboration between senior Bharatanatyam guru Jyotsna Lata Shourie and her senior student Aneesha Grover from Delhi. The script was by Aneesha and the choreography by Jyotsna Shourie.

The focus was on four characters: Kaikeyi, Sita, Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Draupadi. These are the heroines who narrate and play out their stories, presenting an intensely emotive slice of life, not legend, as seen from an insider's perspective. Shattering stereotypes, the subtly tailored kaleidoscopic visualisation, brimming with colour, made for an exhilarating experience.

From the start, the audience was gripped and drawn in, and the tightly packed hour-and-fifteen-minute timescale did not allow for any let-up in pace. The dialogue and dance were seamlessly fleshed out in a bravura fin-de-siècle tone, as the Rebel Ranis briefly spoke and the incandescent energy of the dance took over.

The drama opened with the four heroines perched on high seats, exchanging their stories in a witty dialogue. The thread linking them is the fact that they all stretch the boundaries in a male-dominated society: Kaikeyi, being a warrior queen versed in politics; Sita, the slayer of Ravana in the apocryphal Adbhut Ramayan; Karaikkal Ammaiyar, who gives up all societal norms in search of Shiva; and an assertive Draupadi, who breaks taboos.

A melange of music styles, from jazz to Carnatic, embellished the soundscape, including the Ravanashtakam, heralding the dramatic entrance of Ravana. The Shiva Panchakshari appropriately set the mood for Karaikkal Ammaiyar.

Aneesha Grover was Kaikeyi in the first sequence as she described her upbringing. In a violet aharya, she was portrayed as learning

all the skills as a princess that were identical to those of a male counterpart. Her father, Aswapati, wished her to gain experience in warfare and politics. However, these talents proved to be more of a burden than appropriate to the role she was destined to play.

Apart from the occasion when she accompanied Dasaratha to the battlefield, where she proved her valour by helping him win, thereby obtaining the boons that would prove to be her bane, she was relegated to wifely duties in the antahpura of the royal household. The memory of a matching duet showcasing her martial skills with Dasaratha is all that lingers.

Her sagacity and courage are forgotten, diminished in the savage arc of the terrible act of sending Rama, Lakshmana and Sita into exile. We hear, in her own words, a trenchant justification.

Nandita Kaalan Mehra as Sita dominated the next scene. She was no fragile queen needing the solace of a protecting male presence. The 'Adbhut Ramayan', from a Shakta perspective, envisages the story of her victory over a thousand-headed Ravana reigning in Pushkar, more terrifying than the Lord of Lanka.

Nandita's orange-and-green dress was elegant. Rama and Ravana, played by male Chhau dancers Sagar Vashisht and Benjamin Jacob, gave a scintillating display of somersaults and cartwheels as they lunged and leaped in the battlefield scene, creating fireworks on stage with their athletic display.

Fit and chiselled, they duelled with vigour, and finally an exhausted Rama is overpowered and rendered unconscious by his antagonist. Nandita's aquiline countenance flashed with rage as Sita's gentle visage transformed. The cosmic form of the multi-armed Goddess Mahakali, warrior of darkness, emerges.

Laughing hysterically, with bloodshot eyes and an outstretched tongue denoting her ferocity, she charges into the demon and his army ranks, decapitating the Asura's thousand heads in a flash and destroying his armies.

Ravana's myrmidons in black capes sported face masks resembling an amalgam of silvery metal and ruby-stained glass, giving an Art Deco look. They pranced and capered, looking like fiends from Dante's Inferno. Nandita, to sum up, depicted a Sita who would not have needed Lakshmana to ward off Surpanakha but would have been quite capable of doing so herself!

Amrita Sivakumar, in a green-and-yellow dress, gave a finely etched portrait of the great Saiva saint Karaikkal Ammaiyar. She liberates herself from a mundane housewifely existence by the grace of Shiva.

As she prays to the Lord in despair, requiring a mango to serve to her husband, divine grace makes it appear. She gives up all the norms of human society to smear ashes on herself, denoting complete renunciation, to follow the ascetic path to self-realisation.

She does not care in the least, even shunning clothing, wandering ardently and unclad in search of the Lord.

Harini Iyer was Draupadi in a draped pink saree. She explains that, though being fire-born, she had to undergo the travails of a life full of perils while still being the rock-like support of her five husbands, enduring even the unendurable.

A leering, malevolent Duryodhana, sly Shakuni and a dignified figure of pathos, Yudhisthira, stole the scene. (Sagar Vashisht, Ravi Yadav and Benjamin Jacob.)

As the dice fall with a guillotine-like regularity, all the wealth of the Pandavas evaporates. When Draupadi herself is staked and lost, Duryodhana, intoxicated with victory, decides to humiliate their queen.

He staggers in a louche, unsteady manner, indicating his bare thigh with a repulsive gesture. Leering malice oozed from Dussasana as he evinced satisfaction in physically dragging Draupadi to the palace hall. He is whirled around and collapses with the intervention of Krishna as he dismally fails in trying to disrobe the Pandavas' consort.

A Tamil jazz song, whose lyrics embroidered upon the theme of unleashing righteous wrath and which was sung by Harini Iyer, became the leitmotif of the finale. It received a standing ovation as the production signed off with a grim recital of the statistics of atrocities against women being committed in contemporary India.

It was a warning against the complacency of a society residing in the illusion of having achieved feminine empowerment, which is still a distant goal for many.

Dolly Thakore graced the occasion as a guest and congratulated the artistes on their proficiency.

Farah Khan opens up about raising three kids and being part of the 'sandwich generation'

Farah Khan has opened up about raising her three children while navigating the responsibilities that come with being part of the "sandwich generation" — a phase of life where one often finds themselves caring for both their children and aging parents. Reflecting on the experience, the filmmaker also shared a heartfelt message about recognizing and supporting caregivers, and said she hopes her children learn to acknowledge those who put the needs of their loved ones first. Sharing a couple of her photos with her triplets, Farah wrote, "Me with my three I am part of the sandwich generation. At that age when we either are caregivers to our parents or to our kids... sandwiched in between! One day these three will be sandwiched too, looking after me, n their kids. I am not being dramatic, that's just what it is, n

frankly good luck to them because I am going to be a nightmare." "Today, if u look after someone u love, u do it with nothing. Nobody asking how ur holding up, because everybody is asking about the patient, n quite rightly. We don't think about these people much. We just say she's a good daughter; he's a devoted son. As if it's a personality trait n not the hardest job either of them will ever do. I don't want that to be what my children inherit. I'd like them to ask the person doing the caring how they are."<She added, "N that starts very small. One question, or even a little hug of acknowledgment.. every strong person sometimes needs to be cared for too. This is something we'll all go through at some point This is for all the caregivers, the pure souls out there putting everyone else first.. hope ur ok n taken care of too This film by @mrmedhq made me think about my kids and all these caregivers. Send it to someone who needs to know theyve been seen."

Farah Khan and her husband, filmmaker Shirish Kunder, are parents to three children, triplets who were born in February 2008 through in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Dia Mirza on parenting her son

'I strive to teach him the values of care, respect, empathy and kindness'

Bollywood actress and environmentalist Dia Mirza has opened up about the values she hopes to instill in her son, Avyaan.

She emphasised the importance of empathy, kindness, respect for boundaries, and understanding consent from an early age. Sharing her thoughts on parenting, Dia said she strives every day to teach her son the importance of treating others with care and respect. "Every single day, I strive to teach my son the value of care, respect, empathy and kindness towards all," she said.

The 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actress stressed that teaching children about consent goes beyond simply understanding the word "no". She said her son should also learn to recognize subtle signs of discomfort and respect personal boundaries. "That means helping him understand how to respond to rejection, respect boundaries, and recognize and honour even the subtle ways in which a person may convey discomfort," she said.

Dia further explained that consent should be understood as an active and willing choice rather than merely the absence of refusal. "I want him to understand that consent is not merely the absence of a 'no'; it is the presence of a willing and comfortable

'yes,'" she added. The actress also highlighted the importance of teaching children that nobody is obligated to give them attention, affection, or intimacy. She said rejection should not be viewed as an insult or something that needs to be challenged or negotiated. "That no one owes him their attention, affection, or intimacy, and that rejection is neither an insult nor something to be challenged, negotiated, or taken personally," Dia said.

Calling it an important responsibility for parents raising sons, Dia said such conversations can contribute towards creating a safer and more equitable environment for girls. "This is something every parent raising a son must strive for today. Only then can we build a world that is safer, more equitable, and healthier for our girls," she concluded.

Dia Mirza also shared an image carrying the message: "Don't raise girls to avoid harm. Raise boys who won't cause harm."

Dia Mirza is a mother to two children—her biological son, Avyaan Azaad Rekhi, and her stepdaughter, Samaira Rekhi, whom she shares a close bond with. Avyaan is Dia's son with businessman Vaibhav Rekhi. Samaira is Vaibhav Rekhi's daughter from his previous marriage and is Dia's stepdaughter.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Hold sway (4)
4 Frozen drip (6)
8 Average (3)
10 Roman 1052 (4)
13 Cricketing skill? (8)
14 What's-his-name; a nuisance (2-3-2)
15 Centre (6)
17 Rigidly austere (9)
21 "Sea", in French (3)
22 Opening flower (3)
23 Gross Natl. Prod. (3)
26 The final demand (9)
27 Surrogate (6)
28 Nazi police (7)
32 Disgraceful (8)
34 Lip (4)
35 Designer monogram (3)
36 Unit in a sentence (6)
37 Auction condition (2,2)

DOWN

1 Edges (4)
2 Star Wars princess (4)
3 Stupid, clumsy fellows; louts (4)
5 Gaelic (6)
6 Chinese dynasty (3)
7 Birds of prey (6)
9 City of Brazil (abbr) (3)
11 Doctor's replacement (5)
12 Prevalent or generally present ? (2,3)
15 The south of France; a skirt length (4)
16 Make a hollow in (4)
18 Harvest (4)
19 Skilfully (4)
20 Enthusiast (3)
23 Ways of walking (5)
24 Tyre inflators ? (5)
25 Totals (4,2)
26 Pronounces or says (6)
28 Chap (3)
29 This means `otherwise' (4)
30 Types of East Indian shrubs (4)
31 Bears, in Barcelona (4)
33 "And" in Hindi (3)

M	I	S	H	A	P		J	U	S		M	
I		E		C	A	T	O		K	H	A	N
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F		E		T	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N
E	R	R	S		G	O	T				N	
D		E	N	D	O	W		H	A	S	N	T
	F	L	U		N		T		V	O	A	
M	A	Y	B	E			N	O	V	E	L	A
	N				D	O	R		R	U	B	S
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	C		C	U	R		O	R	A	N	G	E

Solution to September 30

SUDOKU

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		1		7		8		
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	1						6	
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			2		9			
7	9						3	4

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4	3	2	8	7	6	5	9	1
8	5	1	9	2	4	3	7	6
5	2	4	7	8	9	1	6	3
7	8	3	6	1	5	9	2	4
1	9	6	4	3	2	7	5	8
2	1	8	5	6	7	4	3	9
9	6	7	1	4	3	2	8	5
3	4	5	2	9	8	6	1	7

Solution to September 30

Young Hans

From coding to critical thinking:

What future engineers need to learn

Sharath Sirivolu

Engineering has always been about solving problems. But the way engineers solve problems is changing. Technology is evolving quickly, and tools such as artificial intelligence are becoming part of everyday engineering work. This does not make engineering skills less important. Instead, it changes what those skills need to include.

For the next generation of engineers, knowing how to code will remain valuable. But being able to think, question, understand and adapt will be equally important.

Coding Is Just the Beginning

Coding has traditionally been one of the most important skills for engineering students, particularly as technology has become central to almost every industry. However, as AI-powered tools become capable of supporting coding and other technical tasks, engineers will need to look beyond writing code.

The real value lies in understanding what needs to be built, why it is needed and how it can solve a particular problem. Technology should be treated as a tool to achieve an outcome, rather than the outcome itself.

This shift means students need to focus on building a strong foundation in problem-solving alongside their technical skills.

Learning to Ask the Right Questions

One of the most important skills an engineer can develop is the ability to ask the right questions. Before looking for a solution, engineers need to understand the problem. What is causing it? Who is affected by it? What information is available? What information is missing? Are there different ways to solve it? This requires curiosity and research. Engineers need to be comfortable gathering information, examining different possibilities and making decisions based on what they learn.

Critical thinking becomes particularly important when there is no single correct answer. Instead of simply following an existing approach, future engineers will need to assess whether that approach is still the right one. Creative thinking and collaborating across borders further enhances this ability to get diverse perspectives, something an AI ecosystem may not be very effective yet.

Understanding the World Behind the Technology

Technical knowledge becomes more valuable when it is combined with an understanding of the field in which it is being applied.

An engineer working in healthcare, for example, needs to understand the needs of patients, doctors and healthcare systems alongside the technology being developed. Similarly, engineers working in manufacturing, mobility or energy need to understand the challenges and priorities of those sectors. Equally important here is also the understanding of how the technology works.

This is almost always rooted in the fundamental engineering principles. For example, an AI system is a composite of foundational principles drawn from mathematics, data, network communications and hardware system areas.

Domain knowledge helps engineers move from building something that works to creating something that is genuinely useful.

Solving Problems from the User's Perspective

Good engineering is not only about technical performance. It is also about how people experience and use a solution.

Design thinking can help engineers look at problems from the user's perspective. It encourages them to understand needs, explore different ideas, test solutions and improve them based on feedback.

Giving students opportunities to work on real-world projects can help develop this mindset. Practical experiences teach lessons that cannot always be learned through textbooks or classrooms. Empathizing with a user (putting yourselves in their shoes) and understanding the problem they are trying to solve remains a key human-skill to hone early in the career.

Preparing Engineers for a Changing Workplace

Future engineers will also need to communicate clearly and work with people outside their own areas of expertise. An idea has greater impact when an engineer can explain it to a customer, researcher, business leader or colleague in a way that everyone can understand.

They will also need to keep learning. The tools used today may change significantly over the course of a career, but the ability to learn, adapt and solve new problems will remain relevant.

The engineer of the future, therefore, will not be defined only by how well they code. They will be defined by how well they understand problems, ask questions, connect technology with real-world needs and turn ideas into meaningful solutions.

(The author is Head of R&D Centre for Application & Research - ZEISS Meditech)

UoH enters top 1,000 in THE World University Rankings 2027

The University of Hyderabad (UoH), an Institution of Eminence, has improved its position in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027, moving into the 801–1000 global band from the 1001–1200 range in the previous edition.

The latest ranking, released today, places UoH among the world's top 1,000 universities in what THE describes as its largest rankings edition to date. The improvement marks a continued upward movement for the university in international rankings and highlights its focus on research, teaching and academic development.

The THE World University Rankings 2027 evaluate a record 2,297 universities across 118 countries and territories, compared with 2,191 institutions across 115 countries and territories in the 2026 edition. India remains the second most-represented country in the rankings for the second consecutive year, with 143 institutions included.

THE evaluates research-intensive universities using 17 performance indicators grouped into five broad areas: Research Quality, accounting for 30 per cent; Teaching, 29.5 per cent; Research Environment, 29 per cent; International Outlook, 7.5 per cent; and Industry, 4 per cent.

The assessment draws on institutional data submitted and approved by participating universities, Elsevier bibliometric information and responses from THE's annual Academic Reputation Survey.

According to data used for the 2027 rankings, UoH has 5,575 students, with a ratio of 13.2 students per staff member. The university has a gender distribution of 46 women to 54 men.

UoH has also secured positions across several subject areas in THE's 2026 subject rankings. It is placed in the 601–800 band for both Life Sciences and Medical and Health. The university is ranked in the 801–1000 band for Business and Economics, Computer Science, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences. Welcoming the latest ranking, Prof. J. Anuradha, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), University of Hyderabad, said the university's entry into the 801–1000 global band reflected the contributions of its faculty, researchers and students. "Our entry into the 801–1000 global band across thousands of competing institutions reflects the high-impact research, quality teaching, and dedicated scholarly work of our faculty, researchers, and students," she said. She added that the university would continue expanding its research footprint and international collaborations while working to advance higher education standards in India and globally.

Students explore real-world applications for innovative ideas

Students developing new ideas and solutions are gaining opportunities to test their concepts against practical industry expectations through innovation-focused competitions and programmes.

Following the inaugural competition held in Hyderabad, organisers are preparing to expand the programme format to national organisers in other regions. The initiative is designed to give more students an opportunity to present their ideas, explain how their concepts address real-world problems and receive feedback from professionals with industry experience. A key part of the programme is the interaction between students and experts. Rather than focusing only on competition results, the format provides participants with an opportunity to discuss their ideas directly with professionals and understand how concepts may be viewed from a market perspective. Experts involved in the programme provided students with feedback on areas including the relevance of their ideas, potential applications and the challenges involved in developing concepts beyond the classroom. Such interactions can help students understand the difference between an initial idea and a solution that could potentially address a specific need. The Hyderabad competition served as the first stage of the programme, bringing students together to present their work and engage with industry representatives. The experience is now expected to inform the rollout of similar events through national organisers in other countries.

For participating students, the emphasis remains on developing and communicating their own ideas. Presenting before experts can also expose them to questions and perspectives that may not arise during academic projects, allowing them to reconsider aspects of their concepts and identify areas for further development.

The planned expansion would create additional opportunities for students to showcase projects across different locations and connect their academic innovation with practical industry perspectives. As the programme moves beyond its inaugural Hyderabad edition, its focus will be on creating more platforms where students can present original ideas, receive direct feedback and gain a clearer understanding of the practical considerations involved in developing innovative solutions. The initiative highlights the growing role of student-led innovation in connecting education with real-world problem-solving, while giving young innovators opportunities to learn from industry professionals and refine their ideas through direct interaction.

TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY

How music inspires, connects and heals

Music is a universal language that has the power to encourage, inspire, and bring people together. No matter what language we speak, where we come from, or what our background is, music can create a sense of connection. A familiar song can bring back memories, lift our mood, or help us feel that we are not alone.

Music plays an important role in our everyday lives. We listen to it when we are happy, sad, excited, or simply looking for a moment of relaxation. Singing and playing musical instruments can also give people a way to express their thoughts and feelings. In schools and communities, music can encourage teamwork and friendship because people work together to create something meaningful.

Studies have also shown that music can have positive effects on both the brain and the body. Listening to music may help reduce stress, improve mood, and support relaxation. Certain types of music can help people feel more focused and motivated, while calming music may help create a peaceful environment. Learning to play an instrument or singing can also engage different areas of the brain and support memory, attention, and coordination.

The benefits of music are not limited to listening. When people sing, dance, play instruments, or take part in musical activities, they can experience positive physical, mental, and emotional responses.

Group activities such as choirs, bands, and concerts can create a strong feeling of belonging and cooperation.

This is my first Asian Games and I won mixed and team medals. I could not have asked for more. I did not have much time between the women's team gold and the mixed final. I was in a rush and we just got time to sit there and prepare ourselves
-Chikitha Taniparthi, Telangana archer

Asian Games 2026

Golden hat-trick in compound archery

Indian mixed, women's and men's teams claim top finish; cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav, also securing an Olympic quota place for the country

NAGOYA: India's compound archers displayed admirable poise under pressure to complete a golden sweep in the Asian Games team competitions, successfully defending their crowns in men's, women's and mixed events here on Wednesday with performances that ranged from domineering to gritty.

The Indian women's compound team celebrate with their gold medals

Cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav also securing an Olympic quota place for the country following their top finish.

India thus became the first country to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in the compound mixed team event, which will mark the discipline's debut in the Los Angeles Games.

The women's trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha and Prithika Pradeep kicked off the gold rush that culminated with the men's combination of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru rallying to outwit the Chinese trio of Jiahao Liao, Jinyi Liu and Jingyu Shi in the finals 238-237. For Chikitha and Sahil, the day brought two gold medals as they had earlier showed nerves of steel to prevail over Korea's Jungyoon Park and Choi Eun Gyu in a thrilling mixed team final, winning 158-157 after a shoot-off.

The Indian duo had entered the gold-medal match after beating Thailand 156-155 in the semifinals.

This was after the Indian women's compound team produced a sensational performance to outclass the Chinese trio of Wunier, Yue Wang and Fangyao Wei 238-234 and retain its gold with a world record-equalling score. Jyothi, Chikitha and Prithika dominated the women's summit clash to secure the top spot on the podium. Of these, Jyothi was a part of the gold-winning women's team in Hangzhou as well.

The Indians equalled the world record held by South Korea in achieving the feat. Korea had secured the record total during the Incheon Asian Games in 2014.

Sunil wins second bronze

NAGOYA: Sunil Kumar became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win two Asian Games medal after clinching a bronze in the men's 87kg event but Nisha Dahiya endured a medal-less campaign on the opening day of the wrestling competition here Wednesday. Sunil assured his podium place with a technical superiority win (9-0)over Philippines' Roberts Callum Johnston, who was no match to the strength and technical skill of the Indian. Locking his rival's right arm, Sunil effected two take downs to quickly open up a 4-0 lead. A defensive Johnston was put on ground in 'Par Terre' position from where Sunil made more scoring moves to finish the bout in the first period itself. Sunil had won a bronze in Hangzhou 2023 Games, ending a 13-year wait for India for medal in the Greco Roman style.

Indian women in hockey final

NAGOYA: The in-form Indian women's hockey team placed itself on the verge of ending a 44-year wait for an Asian Games gold, beating South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the continental showpiece here on Wednesday. Ishika Chaudhary (44th minute) and skipper Salima Tete (48th) were the goal scorers for India. India are now just a victory away from securing its only second Asian Games women's hockey gold medal. The previous triumph came way back in the 1982 New Delhi games. India will take on defending champions China in the final on Friday. China beat Japan 4-2 in a shoot-out after both sides failed to break the deadlock in the entire 60 minutes of the first semifinal. South Korea will face Japan in the bronze medal match.

Nagal moves to last eight

NAGOYA: Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals at the Asian Games with a fluent 6-3 6-2 win over Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin here on Wednesday, while Dhakshineswar Suresh bowed out after losing his third-round match. The 249th-ranked Nagal, seeded seventh, controlled the contest against Fomin and moved into the last eight with a straight-set victory.

Squash: India assured of medals

NAGOYA: The Indian men's and women's teams eased into the Asian Games semifinals with convincing wins over Kuwait and Singapore respectively, assuring themselves of a medal here on Wednesday. The Indian men, top seed and defending champions, collected a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the quarterfinals. Among the two singles, Veer Chotrani had to dig deep against Bader Almogghrebi before prevailing 12-10, 8-11, 11-0, 11-5 in a 34-minute contest. Abhay Singh, India's highest ranked players and silver medallist in the singles competition, sealed the tie 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 win over Ammar Altamimi. In the women's singles, the Anahat Singh-led team tamed Singapore 2-0 in its quarterfinal.

India renew hockey rivalry against Pak

KAKAMIGAHARA: Defending champions India will renew the fiercest rivalry in men's international hockey when they take on Pakistan in a mouth-watering semifinal of the Asian Games here on Thursday, with eyes firmly set on securing a direct ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Neeru-Kynan pair wins trap mixed team gold

NAGOYA: The Indian pair of Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai clinched the Asian Games trap mixed team gold on Wednesday, smashing the continental record in the process and ensuring that the last leg of country's shooting campaign here makes up for the early disappointments to an extent.

The Indian team shot a score of 34 in the final after qualifying in the fourth position. Qatar's Mohammed Al-Rumaihi and Ray Bassil took the silver with a score of 32.

The medal marks a remarkable end to the Asian Games campaign of the 26-year-old Neeru, who became India's first woman shooter to claim an individual trap medal at the showpiece with her gold that came on the back of an Asian record-shattering score on Tuesday.

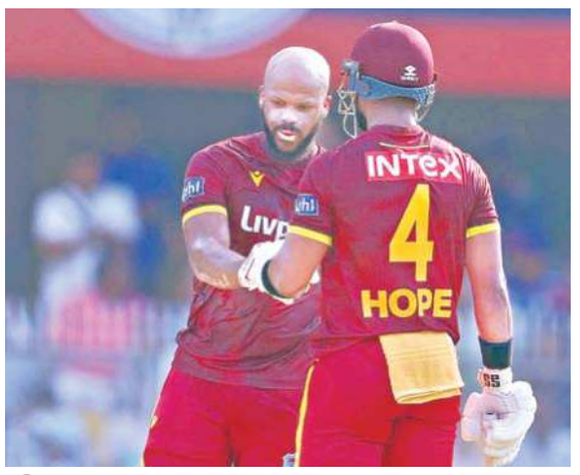
LOVLINA TO FIGHT FOR GOLD

NISHIO: Lovlina Borgohain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday. Last edition's silver-medallist Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought 75kg semifinal to assure herself of at least a silver.

However, 20-year-old Priya, making her Asian Games debut, went down 1-4 to former world champion Yang Chengyu of China in a bruising 60kg semifinal.

Another Indian debutant, Kapil suffered a similar 1-4 defeat against reigning world champion Turabek Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the 90kg semifinal to settle for bronze.

India will thus have three boxers -- Lovlina, Parveen Hooda (65kg) and Ankush Panghal (80kg) fighting for gold in Friday.



Campbell, Hope, Jangoo tons power WI to record 405/7

Tapan Mohanta
Guwahati

CENTURIES from John Campbell, Shai Hope and Amir Jangoo powered the West Indies to their first 400-plus total in the 50-over format, a mammoth 405 for seven against India in the second ODI here on Wednesday.

After being sent into bat, Campbell set the tone with a 65-ball hundred as the West Indies' batters ruthlessly exposed India's inexperienced pace attack. A self-confessed admirer of Chris Gayle, Campbell channelled the inner Universe Boss perfectly, flaying the Indian attack with brute power and freedom in his 101 off 68 balls (9x4, 5x6).

Hope and Jangoo then kept the West Indies in complete control through the middle and late overs, maintaining a scoring rate around eight an over. Hope was the anchor and accelerator in one, building his innings carefully before stepping on the gas to make full use of the reprieve he got when he was dropped on 27 by Virat Kohli, with the ball bursting through his hands at short midwicket.

The skipper brought up a superb 104 off 94 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, keeping the tempo high rather than allowing India to claw their way back. Jangoo complemented Hope perfectly, mixing calculated stroke-play with aggression and reached his second ODI century off just 69 balls, finishing on 114 with 13 fours and three sixes as the Windies brought up three centuries in an ODI for the first time. The total surpassed their previous best of 389 against England in 2019.

In the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, who is on the Asian Games duty, and Mohammed Siraj, who is still sitting out, India continue to expose youngsters ahead of the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. But the pace attack threw more questions than answers. With proven campaigners such as Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami still being overlooked, India's search for options beyond the established names hardly looked convincing. Auqib Nabi, who became the third cricketer from the Valley to represent India, endured a forgettable outing, conceding 84 runs in his 8.5 overs.

Operating at military-medium pace, Nabi struggled to contain the West Indies on a flat surface. Gurnoor Brar, used as the second-change bowler, was the best among the three returning 2/96, while Prasidh Krishna finished with 1/45 in five overs.

There was further concern for India as batting all-rounder Naman Dhir, who also bowls off-spin, twisted his ankle and had to leave the field in the 36th over after bowling 6.1 overs. The only bright spots were the two spinners as Kuldeep Yadav claimed 2/65 to get into the 200-wicket club in ODIs, while Ravindra Jadeja who finished with 2/75.

Family preserves man's body in freezer for 4 yrs, spends Rs 50 lakh

Mumbai

Ruling out any foul play, the police said the man passed away in 2022 after suffering from cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments

THE family of an 80-year-old Mumbai man who died four years ago has preserved his body due to 'deep emotional attachment', spending over Rs 50 lakh in the process, police said on Wednesday.

Ruling out any foul play, the police said the man passed away in 2022 after suffering from cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments.

The family initially kept the body in a freezer in their home in Mumbai's Malad area, said an official from Kurar police station.

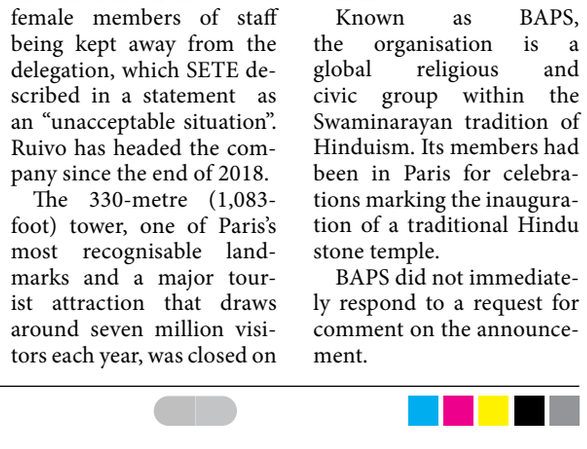
According to the police, the man's wife and two children, one of whom is a lawyer, decided against performing the last rites due to 'deep emotional attachment'.

When their residential building underwent redevelopment, the family moved the body to a local dispensary, which closed down about a month ago, they said.

"The family has spent more than Rs 50 lakh to keep the body preserved and was exploring options to send it to a facility in the United States offering long-term cryopreservation services," a police official said.

Cryopreservation broadly refers to storing cells, tissues or organs at extremely low temperatures.

Police uncovered the unusual case after receiving a tip-off.



One chapter has ended: Pahalgam victim's daughter on Moosa death

MUMBAI: Asavari Jagdale, daughter of Pahalgam terror attack victim Santosh Jagdale, on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and security agencies following the killing of Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Hashim Moosa in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam.

Speaking to ANI, Jagdale said she considered the day one of the happiest for her, recalling the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

"Today, I will consider it the happiest day for me. On April 22, 2025, the way our people were killed in the Baisaran Valley, 26 lives were lost. They were killed after asking about their religion. The way they brutally killed our people, today I came to know that the mastermind behind it has been eliminated in an encounter. I would say this should be the happiest day for the country," she said.

Expressing her gratitude towards the security forces, she said, "I want to thank the Army and all the intelligence forces working on this. I request you to continue this operation and eliminate all the terrorists in this country until the last terrorist is eliminated." Jagdale recalled that she had performed her father's shraddh (death anniversary ritual) the previous day and had spoken to his photograph about the ongoing operations against terrorism. "Yesterday was my father's shraddh, and I was talking to him. I told him that whatever operations are happening against terrorism are because of the sacrifice of all of you. The 26 people who were killed, the sacrifice of those 26 people is the reason these operations are taking place," she said.

Maha govt orders banks not to visit farmers for loan recovery

PUNE: Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule directed banks not to visit farmers' homes for loan recovery due to the prevailing drought situation and asked officials to explore whether the RBI could issue a circular suspending such recovery proceedings.

During a meeting of the Bawankule-headed drought relief cabinet sub-committee on Tuesday, directives were also issued for implementing a 10 per cent water cut in urban areas and to maintain the conserved water as a buffer until June next year, according to an official release.

At present, water is being supplied through 560 tankers in the state, it stated, as the panel members suggested proper planning to preserve drinking water supplies for 10 months, before the next monsoon.

The Maharashtra government has declared drought in 265 of its 358 talukas, or 74 per cent of the state, amid rainfall deficit, and announced relief measures, including crop loan restructuring, land revenue concessions, and power bill subsidies.

It has activated 'Trigger-1' under its manual for drought management 2016 (updated in 2020) and Drought Management Code to declare drought conditions and initiate relief.

Trigger-1 is the first stage in the state's drought framework, activated by a rainfall deficit of more than 25 per cent combined with a prolonged dry spell of 21 days.

According to Principal Secretary Vinita Ved Singhal, scarcity conditions have been reported in 265 talukas of the state based on information received from divisional commissioners. Drought conditions have become evident under the 'Trigger-1' criteria, while 43 talukas have qualified under 'Trigger-2'.

'Jail Bharo Andolan' on Oct 2 from Shivaji Park

MUMBAI: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday announced that a "Jail Bharo Andolan" will begin from Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Gandhi Jayanti, alleging that the Election Commission's functioning was not in the interest of the country.

After reaching Mumbai, Dipke said that the protest movement would start from Shivaji Park on October 2 and appealed to all political parties to participate in the agitation.

He alleged that the "dictatorship" of the Election Commission was a matter of concern and claimed that collective efforts were needed to bring change in the country.

Supporting the remarks made by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar regarding alleged misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in elections, Deepak said that everyone should come together to address concerns related to the electoral process.

Eiffel Tower chief to quit after exclusion of female staff

PARIS: The head of the company that operates the Eiffel Tower is to leave his post at the end of the year after female employees were excluded from a visit by a Hindu religious group at the Paris landmark.

Patrick Branco Ruivo, director general of the Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE), will step down following an investigation by an independent firm into operational failures surrounding the group's visit on September 5.

The investigation found that the failures had led to female members of staff being kept away from the delegation, which SETE described in a statement as an "unacceptable situation". Ruivo has headed the company since the end of 2018.

The 330-metre (1,083-foot) tower, one of Paris's most recognisable landmarks and a major tourist attraction that draws around seven million visitors each year, was closed on September 7 after staff went on strike. A union official described the management instructions surrounding the visit as "unacceptable".

Tensions had risen among employees after management instructed female workers not to come into contact with members of the delegation from Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Known as BAPS, the organisation is a global religious and civic group within the Swaminarayan tradition of Hinduism. Its members had been in Paris for celebrations marking the inauguration of a traditional Hindu stone temple.

BAPS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the announcement.

The Hans India

Business

"Ayush is not merely a cultural inheritance but a dynamic and high-growth engine of India's economy. The Ayush sector is poised to play an increasingly important role in healthcare, wellness, employment and global economic engagement, while contributing to our vision of a healthy and self-reliant India."

-Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush

BIZ BRIEFS

Diageo unveils updated product

Diageo India has revamped McDowell's No.1 with an upgraded blend combining imported Scotch, Indian malts and grain spirits, alongside redesigned packaging and a refreshed visual identity. RuchiraJaitly, CMO, Diageo India, said: "Today's whisky drinker is redefining value. It's no longer just about affordability, but also about quality, craftsmanship and experience. Socializing is at the heart of how India drinks, and consumers want a whisky they can proudly share with their circle, one that reflects who they are."

OPPO launches K14 Plus in India

OPPO India has launched the K14 Plus, powered by MediaTek Dimensity 7360 MAX, with a 1.5K 144Hz AMOLED display, 8,000mAh battery, 45W charging, 50MP OIS camera with 4K video and 5,000mm² vapour chamber cooling. It offers up to 8GB RAM, 256GB storage, IP69K/IP69/IP68/IP66 protection and ColorOS 16. Available in Solar Orange and Star White, it goes on sale October 8 via Flipkart and OPPO's e-store, starting effectively at Rs 25,999 with bank discount.

ICICI Prudential's death claims rise

ICICI Prudential Life said its average individual death claim stood at Rs15 lakh in FY2026, up from about Rs10 lakh in FY2021. The insurer said the average payout has remained around Rs14-15 lakh over the past four years. Sarang Gokhale, Chief - Underwriting and Retail Claims, ICICI Prudential, said: "Life insurance is built on a simple promise to provide financial security to families when they need it the most."

Amazon sale from October 7

Amazon India has announced Navaratri-focused offers ahead of its Great Indian Festival beginning October 8, with discounts of up to 70 per cent across fashion and beauty brands. Prime members can get up to 10 per cent additional benefits. The platform is also offering AI-powered shopping tools, including Rufus, Lens AI, price tracking and review highlights, while Amazon Now provides rapid delivery of festive essentials across more than 65 cities.

Bontrue Furniture gets recognition

Hyderabad-based Bontrue Furniture won the "Excellence in Customer Trust & Care – Furniture Retail" award at the Times Business Awards 2026. Former India women's cricket captain Mithali Raj presented the award to director Rakesh Patel at Novotel HICC on September 26. Rakesh Patel, Director, Bontrue Furniture, said: "This award belongs to our customers. More than 18,000 families have trusted us with their homes, and over 6,500 of them took the time to tell others about it."

Venu Srinivasan takes Tata Trusts row to Maha Charity Commissioner

Questions Noel Tata's perpetual trusteeship, Neville Tata's appointment

MUMBAI

THE widening boardroom dispute at Tata Sons has spilled into Tata Trusts, with trustee and Tata Sons nominee director Venu Srinivasan seeking a regulatory inquiry into the governance of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), one of the charitable entities that collectively control about 66 per cent of Tata Sons.

In a letter to Maharashtra's Charity Commissioner, Srinivasan has questioned the appointment and continued status of Noel N. Tata as a perpetual trustee, the appointment of Noel Tata's son Neville Tata, and what he described as attempts to constrain his independent role as a nominee director on the Tata Sons board.

At the centre of the dispute is a September 16 SDTT circular resolution that Srinivasan said sought to prevent him from participating in or voting on the proposed listing of Tata Sons. He described it as an attempt to "prevent me from exercising my independent judgement and vote".

The following day, at a Tata Sons board meeting,

Venu Srinivasan

Srinivasan supported the reappointment of Chairman N Chandrasekaran for a third five-year term and backed moving ahead with the listing process. Noel Tata opposed both positions. The board passed the resolutions, with the Chandrasekaran vote requiring a casting vote. Tata Trusts later disputed the validity of the board decisions, maintaining that its nominees were required to agree on such matters.

Srinivasan has also questioned the Trusts' involvement in Tata Sons' commercial affairs. Referring to a September 17 Tata Trusts statement that all available options, and not listing alone, should be explored, he alleged that the Trusts and their operating team had assumed a direct role in commercial and strategic matters concerning Tata Sons.

He argued that such involvement could conflict with the charitable objectives of SDTT and potentially expose it to tax consequences. He alleged that the Trust was being exposed to "potentially immense fiscal consequences" and described the conduct as mismanagement of its affairs and property.

Srinivasan has sought an immediate inquiry into SDTT's administration and governance, including Noel Tata's perpetual trusteeship, Neville Tata's appointment, his own exclusion from decision-making and the Trusts' involvement in Tata Sons' commercial affairs.

Noel Tata flags concerns over Tata Sons listing plan

MUMBAI

TATA Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has urged the Tata Sons board to review a restructuring proposal aimed at avoiding a stock market listing of the holding company.

Noel Tata said he remained hopeful that the Reserve Bank of India would reconsider its decision to classify Tata Sons as an upper-layer non-banking financial company (NBFC).

According to him, listing Tata Sons would fundamentally change the way the Tata group has operated for decades and could create a conflict between investor expectations for profits and the philanthropic objectives of Tata Trusts.

Noel Tata

Tata Trusts, which owns 66 per cent of Tata Sons, has proposed merging Tata Electronics Systems Solutions and Tata Consulting Engineers with Tata Sons. The restructuring would give Tata Sons its own operations and revenue and could allow it to avoid classification as an NBFC or core investment company. Tata Sons was placed on the RBI's upper-layer NBFC list in September 2022 and was given three years to list. The company subsequently cleared its debt and applied in 2024 to surrender its core investment company status and remain private.

D. Sridhar Babu, IT Minister of Telangana with officials of DoorDash In Hyderabad on Wednesday

DoorDash picks Hyderabad for first India hub

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

US-based DoorDash, one of the world's leading local commerce platforms on Wednesday opened its talent hub here, its first India office. The company is starting with 500 professionals and plans to scale its headcount to more than 3,000 within next two years, a company release said.

Telangana Industries and Commerce Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated the facility alongside Ravi Inukonda, Chief Financial Officer at DoorDash, Jenna Kohnke, Senior Director, Workforce Strategy and Talent Acquisition Operations at DoorDash and Sai Krishna, IT Advisor to Telangana government.

The Hyderabad hub will initially house Customer Experience and Integrity (CXI) and General and Administrative teams, it said. Its CXI operation will be DoorDash's third internal CXI service centre globally. The hub will support DoorDash's global operations and help deliver reliable experiences for consumers, merchants, and Dashers across DoorDash's geographies, it said. Team members in Hyderabad will support a global platform that serves over 56 million monthly active consumers across geographies with a combined population reaching over one billion people, it further said. Sridhar Babu said DoorDash choosing Hyderabad to build capabilities to drive its rapid growth is a strong validation of how the city has evolved as a global talent hub. "As one of the world's leading local commerce platforms, with operations across 40 plus countries, DoorDash is a strong addition to Hyderabad's growing hyperlocal digital commerce ecosystem.

Fiscal deficit hits 41.9% of FY27 target by August

NEW DELHI: THE central government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 7.1 lakh crore or 41.9 per cent of full year target at the end of August, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday. The deficit was at 38.1 per cent of Budget Estimates (BE) of 2025-26 during the corresponding period last year. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 7,10,249 crore during April-August period of the 2026-27. According to the CGA, the Centre's net tax revenue up to August 2026 was about Rs 8.38 lakh crore, or 29.2 per cent of the corresponding BE of 2026-27 of total receipts, In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, the net tax revenue was at 28.6 per cent of that year's BE. The data on monthly accounts showed that the total expenditure during the first five months was at about Rs 20.78 lakh crore, or 38.9 per cent of BE. In the year-ago period, it was at 37.1 per cent of BE. The Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of the GDP or Rs 16.96 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Bank credit to industry up 18.2% : RBI data

MUMBAI: Bank credit to industry grew 18.2 per cent in August, up from 7 per cent in the same period last year, according to Reserve Bank data released on Wednesday.

The RBI has released data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for August 2026, collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks, which together account for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit by all SCBs.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit grew 18.8 per cent as on the fortnight ended August 31, 2026, compared to 10.2 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (September 5, 2025).

"While credit to 'large' and 'medium' industries grew at an accelerated pace, 'micro and small' industries sustained steady expansion," the RBI said.

Lighter cars get relief under new CAFE norms

Centre drops separate small-car concession, adopts flatter weight-based formula

NEW DELHI

THE government has notified the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, giving lighter cars relatively softer efficiency targets while requiring greater improvements from heavier vehicles.

The norms, notified by the Ministry of Power, will come into effect from April 1, 2027 and remain applicable until March 31, 2032. They will cover new passenger vehicles manufactured or imported for sale in India.

The revised framework replaces the proposed special concession for small cars with a flatter weight-based target curve, providing lighter vehicles greater relief compared with the September 2025 draft. The reference weight has been raised from 1,082 kg under the existing norms to 1,229 kg, an increase of around 13.6 per cent.

The September 2025 draft had proposed a 3 gram per km deduction in declared CO2 emissions for petrol cars weighing up to 909 kg, with engine capacity up to 1,200 cc and length up to four metres. The final norms have dropped this separate concession.

The new framework targets more than 16 per cent improvement in fuel efficiency over the five-year period. The fuel-consumption benchmark will tighten from 3.996 litres per 100 km in 2027-28 to 3.3273 litres per 100 km in 2031-32, an improvement of around 16.7 per cent.

The norms provide multiple compliance routes, including incentives for electric vehicles, hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles, alternative fuels and fuel-saving technologies.

Battery electric vehicles, range-extended EVs, plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles will receive volume derogation factors, or "super credits", in fleet-average calculations.

The framework also introduces a Carbon Neutrality Factor to recognise renewable and low-carbon fuels such as ethanol-blended petrol, biofuels and CBG. Recognised fuel-conservation technologies have been expanded from four to 12.

Manufacturers can meet obligations through specified two-year or three-year compliance blocks. Those exceeding targets can carry forward credits, trade them with other manufacturers or sell them through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's buyout mechanism.

Manufacturers selling fewer than 1,000 units annually will remain exempt from fleet-average obligations.

Two Timex World Stores opened in Hyderabad

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

WATCHMAKER Timex Group India Ltd., has announced the launch of its first Timex World stores in Hyderabad. Located in Habsiguda and Himayat Nagar, the new stores will offer customers access to an extensive portfolio of globally renowned and homegrown watch brands under one roof.

Deepak Chhabra, MD, Timex Group India, said: "As consumer preferences evolve, we continue to see strong value in in-person retail, particularly for categories like watches where customers want to discover collections and experience products firsthand. With the launch of our first Timex World stores in Hyderabad, we are creating a dedicated destination that brings together choice, convenience and a seamless brand experience. Hyderabad is an important market for us, with a growing base of discerning consumers and strong demand for global and premium brands." Designed as a one-stop destination for watch enthusiasts, the new Timex World stores showcase a diverse collection spanning everyday essentials, fashion-forward styles, and premium timepieces. Consumers can explore collections from Timex, Helix, GUESS, Gc, Aston Martin and Daniel Wellington, catering to a wide range of styles and price points.

AI to reshape, not erase, India's BPM industry: Nasscom

NEW DELHI

ARTIFICIAL intelligence has not made India's business process management (BPM) industry obsolete as many had feared, but is instead driving one of the sector's most significant reinventions, Nasscom President Rajesh Nambiar said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Nasscom BPM Confluence 2026 here, Nambiar said the industry now has an opportunity to become the world's "intelligent operations and transformation hub". He recalled that when generative and agentic AI emerged about two years ago, many had predicted that the BPM industry would "be history" and that companies would be completely wiped out. "But two years hence, we know that that wasn't anywhere close to the truth," he said, adding that the industry has "actually gotten better" and would improve further. Nambiar acknowledged that a significant part of the work done in the sector, including routine transactions, standard workflows and basic customer interactions, would be automated by AI agents. However, he said the question was not what AI would do to BPM, but what the industry could become because of it. Noting that Indian BPM industry's revenue was close to USD 60 billion last year, Nambiar said the more important story lay beneath the numbers. AI and analytics, cloud-based operations, domain-specific platforms and automation-led outcomes were becoming more important than call centres, where the industry originated, he said.

Apple Pay joins India's digital payments race

NEW DELHI

US technology major Apple has entered the Indian digital payments market with the launch of Apple Pay in collaboration with Axis Bank.

The service is available on iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch, with support for Mac coming soon, Apple said on Wednesday.

"India is home to a dynamic and digitally savvy population that continues to embrace a cashless future while expecting the highest standards of security and privacy, and we're so excited to bring Apple Pay to users in India today," said Jennifer Bailey, Apple's vice president of Apple Pay and Apple Wallet.

Customers with Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards can add their cards to Apple Pay and make payments at stores, in apps and on the web without entering PINs or OTPs at checkout.

Apple said the service will be accepted by millions of merchants across India, including Apple Store locations, Blinkit, Chaayos, Comet, Croma, Interflora, Ixigo, Le15 Patisserie, Reliance brands, Tata 1mg and Zomato.

The company has also worked with payment service providers including Cashfree, JusPay, Mswipe, Paytm, PayU, Pine Labs, Razorpay and Worldline to enable Apple Pay across their merchant networks.

Apple said card numbers are not stored on the device or its servers and are not shared with merchants. Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted and securely stored in the device's Secure Element. Transaction details are also not retained by Apple. If an iPhone is lost or stolen, users can use the Find My app to locate, lock or suspend payments from the device. Apple Pay is currently available in more than 90 countries and regions and works with more than 11,000 bank and network partners globally.

Adani-backed Vishakha Renewables eyes ₹1,250-cr IPO

NEW DELHI: Adani Group-promoted Vishakha Renewables Ltd has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,250 crore through a fresh issue of shares, as the solar component maker looks to pare debt.

The proposed initial public offering (IPO) also comprises an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 1.82 crore equity shares by promoters and an existing shareholder, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Wednesday. Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, a promoter of Vishakha Renewables, is also offloading shares in the OFS.

The company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to Rs 250 crore. If such a placement is completed, the size of the fresh issue will be reduced accordingly. The Vishakha Group-promoted firm plans to utilise Rs 900 crore of the net proceeds from the fresh issue towards repayment or pre-payment of certain borrowings, while the remaining funds will be used for general corporate purposes. As of June 30, 2026, the company had consolidated outstanding borrowings of Rs 2,700.57 crore.

Entertainment

OTT crisis in Tollywood

SHRINKING STREAMING DEALS THREATEN BIG-BUDGET FILMS

Suhas Sistu

For years, online video platforms have taken up a crucial role in the economics of Tollywood, with post-theatrical streaming deals serving as an important source of recovery for producers. But the way in which the streaming market is evolving is now compelling the Telugu film industry to reevaluate its reliance on digital revenues.

It especially has ramifications for medium-budget films, which previously relied on lucrative OTT deals to offset the costs of production. The notion that streaming agreements could cushion weak box-office performances has also led to the criticism that filmmakers were taking fewer risks with theatrical prospects.

That assumption seems to be proving out. Streaming platforms are becoming more reluctant to spend large amounts of money on acquiring films, and OTT budgets reportedly are being trimmed and deals increasingly tied to a film's theatrical performance and commercial viability.

For example, Yash's Toxic OTT valuation has reportedly dropped significantly from an initial pre-release offer of Rs150 Cr down to around Rs30 Cr following its underwhelming theatrical run.

The ramifications go beyond mid-range productions. Even big-budget Telugu films are being threatened as producers expect substantially higher digital valuations than what streaming platforms are willing to offer. Such a disparity could leave films that are mounted on ambitious budgets in financial distress. Speaking on it, '1948 Akhanda Bharat' director Eswar said, "The OTT market is definitely going through a correction. Earlier, filmmakers could factor in a strong digital deal while planning their budgets, but that safety net is becoming smaller. For young directors like us, this is actually a reminder to focus on the script and make films within realistic budgets. A film should first work for the audience in theatres, and OTT should be seen as an additional revenue stream rather than the foundation of the entire business model."

If the trend persists, theatrical revenue could again become the default priority for producers looking to recoup their investments. It would also compel filmmakers to be more disciplined with their budgets and give more thought to content and theatrical appeal.

For Telugu cinema, the shifting OTT landscape could thus be a major turning point in how films are planned, financed and marketed.

'Ranabaali: The History We Forgot' episode highlights untold stories of British India

The second episode of the Ranabaali – Never Forget the Truth documentary series, The History We Forgot, is out on the YouTube platform. Starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, the episode uncovers lesser-known facts about India's history under the British rule.

In the episode, the lead actors discuss the exploitation of India's agriculture produce and take a close look at the railway network laid down during the colonial period. While Vijay Deverakonda talks about the narrative around the introduction of railways in the country, the documentary reveals the other side of the coin. The actress plays an essential role in the documentary film. Rashmika Mandanna shares her research for the role in Ranabaali and states that sifting through the annals of history and getting into the events that occurred long ago made her more empathetic to the struggles of people from long ago.

Ranabaali's four-episode documentary aims to uncover forgotten tales of the bygone era that are intrinsically linked to the movie's universe. Apart from The History We Forgot , the third episode titled The Men We Forgot will be out on October 2. The release date of the finale, The Last Load, will be announced soon.

The film is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. It stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna who share their insights about the country's history via a prism of pertinent questions. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, presented by T-Series and will be released worldwide on October 16, on the day of Vijayadashami.

'Tatvam' director Arjun Kola promises a thrilling murder mystery

Director Arjun Kola is confident that the suspense and mystery in Tatvam will keep the audience on tenterhooks. The murder mystery stars Dinesh Tej and Dashwika K. jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha Pashupulate under their Trayathi Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions.

In the run-up to the October 2 release, Arjun Kola unveiled that their initial plan was to make a rural drama centered on a village panchayat. They later added murder, mystery, and courtroom thriller elements as they worked on a story based on a case in a village context.

The director explained the meaning of the title Tatvam,

saying that it stood for the conflict between truth and lies. He observed that the protagonist unravels the truth in the narrative, which exposes a person's true nature, besides delving into the minds of the characters.

Arjun further revealed that they encountered several obstacles during the production. The cast and crew involved in a car crash while promoting the film caused another postponement. However, the team resumed promotional campaigns and set October 2 for the release.

The director also praised Chetan Bharadwaj's background score, which plays a critical role in the second half of the film as the mystery deepens.

Arjun, who gave up a career in software to pursue movies, announced plans to make Dwarapudi Days, a melodrama set in the Godavari region.

Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree

Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part of, this picture has definitely got a lot of attention and likes! For the pictures, Priyanka went with a sheer hot-pink saree and paired it with a sleeveless ikat-style blouse that had pretty straps. She was seen posing elegantly in front of a window, where the camera captured the soft lighting on the actress. For styling, the actress kept her looks minimal but still stood out in the pictures. She accessorized with colourful glass bangles in teal, mustard and pink. A touch of makeup, including a minimal black bindi, subtle eye shadow and nude lip balm, completed the beauty's look, while soft and loose wavy hair gave her a pretty finishing touch. The pretty traditional attire along with minimal styling has surely helped Priyanka Jawalkar get a lot of appreciation for her latest photoshoot.

Satya, Yogi Babu team up for comedy entertainer 'Golden Bhagyam'

Golden Bhagyam stars Telugu comedian Satya and Tamil comedy star Yogi Babu, in a unique comedy entertainer directed by Rangabali fame Pawan Basamsetti. Recently, the makers unveiled the title reveal glimpse, showcasing the film's special Telugu-Tamil concept. Produced by Nagarjuna Reddy and Pawan Basamsetti under Dream Movie Makers and Nayavayu Chitralu, it is the maiden production venture of both the banners. The film is described as 'Telumil' which combines the Telugu and Tamil language and stars the popular stars from both the industries.

The glimpse starts with a funny conversation between a Telugu man who enjoyed biryani and a Tamil man having idli with sambar, who claim that their respective cuisine is the best. Later, they argue which one is the best cuisine and eventually the funny introduction of Satya and Yogi Babu in white dress starts. Interestingly, in the video, Satya speaks Tamil while Yogi Babu speaks Telugu. It is said that the film has a love, crime and action track with a comedic take on it. Jayashree and Athiraj play the female leads

while Vennela Kishore, Sudharshan, Kishore Tirumala, Rohini, Tanikella Bharani and Sunil Reddy play pivotal roles. Bablu Aju has been roped in for cinematography while the music has been composed by Pawan CH.

'Chakkora – Lunar Love Bird' clears censor with U/A certificate

Chakkora – Lunar Love Bird, the upcoming romantic musical entertainer, has cleared its censor formalities and bagged a U/A certificate. Written and directed by Manga Srinivas, the film is produced by Dr. Chintada Hemarao under High Joy Commercials and made under the VIP – Vintage Iconic Pictures banner.

The censor board members reportedly appreciated the team for coming up with a youthful family entertainer without any cuts. The film has a crisp runtime of 2 hours, 17 minutes and 58 seconds while its screenplay was appreciated for keeping the narrative engaging.

Starring Sravan and Malaika T Vasupal in the lead roles, Chakkora – Lunar Love Bird has Anushka Luhar, Yamini, LB Sriram, Suman, Brahmaji, Indraja, Mani Chandana, Nellore Sudarshan, Prabhavathi, Madhavi Prasad, Janardhan and others in pivotal roles.

The film is slated to have a worldwide theatrical release on October 9 through Sri Lakshmi Pictures. In the meanwhile, the movie's audio rights have been acquired by T-Series Music.

After the previous promotional material, the censor clearance adds to the anticipation over the film that promises to blend romance, music and family-oriented entertainment.

'Impure' producer Varahi backs her film with her mother's wedding savings

Impure marks Varahi Mallipamula's debut as a producer, actor and writer, with the film being born from an unusual source of funding - her mother's wedding savings.

Set for a limited Pan-India theatrical release on October 2, the independent film delves into gender, social expectations and the struggles of women. Born in Kakinada and raised in Pennsylvania, Varahi currently splits her time between New York and holds a double major in Engineering and Journalism from Penn State. Despite working in the technology sector in New York, Los Angeles and London, she continued to pursue filmmaking, penning the first draft of Impure six years ago.

The film follows a woman whose wedding is cancelled after her in-laws discover that she is not a virgin. Varahi said she spent years pitching the women-centric story before deciding to produce it herself.

She also starred Telugu actor Yasha Muthuluri in the lead role.

Impure features music by Grammy-nominated artists Raja Kumari and Karan Pandav, with cinematographer Gnanasekhar VS capturing Telugu locations in an artistic visual approach. Nishanthi Evani makes her directorial debut with the film. The movie premiered at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles before an

East Coast premiere at Cinema Village in New York.

'Anakapalli' interval and climax will surprise audience: Lagadapati Sridhar

The upcoming Telugu film Anakapalli is all set for the worldwide theatrical release on October 2, as the makers assure to present an entertainment-filled drama of love, family, action, and suspense. In this regard, the team of the film interacted with the media and shared glimpses of the film.

Lagadapati Sridhar appreciated the team's hard work and assured that the film has a good commercial value. He revealed

that the film was initially planned to release this August, but it underwent several improvements after the screening and the audience's response. He further added that the interval and climax of the film will surely amaze the viewers.

The film, which will hit the screens in October, is produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, Bhavya Sri Movie Makers, and Nakkina Narratives. It stars Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishta, and Tarak Ponnappa in leading roles. Directed by Khagesh Tammineni, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina has written the script.

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina described the film as a love drama with an intriguing family mystery and emotions. He further praised Vikram's hard work and assured that the film will make the actor famous. He also shared that the film has got good pre-shows bookings.

Producer Kandregula Naidu and Sandhya Vasishta also shared that they expect the film to be a hit among the audience.